PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 529 (Part 2)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2012

COMPRISING PERIOD
7 June 2011—17 June 2011

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Tuesday 7 June 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

EU Formal Competitiveness Council (30-31 May 2011)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): The EU Competitive Council took place in Brussels on 30-31 May 2011. I represented the UK on EU internal market and industry issues on 30 May and the Minister for Universities and Science represented the UK on research and space issues.

On the first day, the Council discussed several issues directly relevant to the Prime Minister's EU growth initiative. It discussed the Commission's Single Market Act and issued a set of conclusions. There was a robust debate, in which a number of member states, including the UK, made the case for the conclusions to better reflect spring European Council language on open trade, services and reducing regulatory burden. Agreement was reached after the presidency tabled a number of compromise texts.

The Council also agreed a position on a proposal to revise the EU's main accounting directive. The UK welcomed the fact that this will lighten administrative burdens on small firms (those with less than 10 employees). I believe this is a significant agreement, and perhaps the first example of ex-post exemption from existing EU regulation for very small companies.

An attempt to agree a proposal for a Council regulation on a European private company was made but none was reached. The Council also discussed the unitary patent (formerly known as the Community patent). An extra Council is now scheduled for 27 June to agree a general approach on the regulations for establishing a European unitary patent.

Member states agreed the Council's conclusions tabled on smart regulation. While the UK continues to believe there is scope for much greater ambition in this area, we welcomed developments to lighten smaller company burdens and the Council commitment to conduct impact assessments on its own amendments. At the ministerial lunchtime discussion of administrative burdens, all member states supported the idea of exemptions for micro-entities and special treatment for small to medium enterprises (SMEs) in upcoming regulations.

The Commission welcomed the fact that member states have appointed so-called SME envoys to take forward national implementation of the to the EU's Small Business Act. Points of any other business were a report held by Malta on the Euro-Med conference on 11 May and an outline by Poland on its presidency priorities.

On the second day of the Council, Ministers received updated progress on negotiations for the Euratom (European Atomic Energy Framework Community) framework programme 2012-13 legislation. The UK supported the presidency's work to date to reach agreement on the legislation, and noted agreement would be needed shortly to ensure financial security for the ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) and JET (Joint European Torus) programmes in 2012.

Some delegations, including the UK, suggested that the presidency could aim for political agreement on the Euratom decision at the extraordinary Competitiveness Council on 27 June. The Commissioner provided an update at the UK's request on a separate proposal to find an additional €1.3 billion from the EU budget for ITER in 2012-13. Negotiations continue in the Council and European Parliament.

Over lunch Ministers discussed links between the future structural and cohesion funds and the EU's common strategic framework for research and innovation. All agreed that research and development funding under the current structural and cohesion funds had a key role to play in building scientific capacity in Europe and it was generally acknowledged the successor to this programme should have distinct but complementary policy objectives to the successor to the excellence-focused research framework programme. Ideally, management processes between the two would be more closely aligned.

The Council adopted conclusions on the Eurostars and ambient assisted living programmes which combine EU and national funding to support R and D carried out by SMEs and R and D into technology for elderly people respectively, and on European research area governance. Under any other business the Commission supplied information on the European Research Council, Artemis and Eniac joint technology initiatives, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology plus a follow up to the Green Paper on the future of EU R and D funding. The presidency also reported on the recent informal Competitiveness Council in Godollo, Hungary.

On EU space policy the Council adopted conclusions and agreed that Galileo satellite navigation and global monitoring for environment and security programmes (GMES) should remain priorities. The UK supported the need to prioritise these programmes and welcomed Commission efforts at containing costs on Galileo, calling for cost effectiveness of new EU space situational awareness programmes and saying the Ariane programmes should remain projects developed by the European Space Agency and not be funded by the EU. The UK also noted the potential of EU involvement in a Mars sample return mission for European science and industry.

Council conclusions were adopted with minor changes to the presidency's draft, such as amendments on GMES data policy calling for "free of charge access to certain public data and services" and removal of the Commission acknowledgement of the need for independent access to space for Europe.

TREASURY

Money Laundering Regulations

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): Today the Government are publishing their response to the review of the money laundering regulations, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. This includes proposals for consultation and a request for information on the costs and benefits of these proposals to inform robust analysis and ensure they will make the regulations more effective and proportionate. This follows a review by the Regulatory Policy Committee and approval from the Cabinet Reducing Regulation sub-Committee.

There has been an extensive period of engagement with industry, supervisors, law enforcement, business customers, private individuals and across Government. While I have concluded that the regulations and their implementation are broadly effective and proportionate in practice, more needs to be done.

Businesses are overly focused on process and I want to strengthen the risk-based approach provided for in the regulations, in order to ensure they are as effective as they can be in helping to prevent and detect money laundering and terrorist finance.

Through this response and the proposals for consultation it includes, I want to give businesses the confidence to adopt policies and procedures that reflect their own assessment of risk. To help achieve this, I am consulting on removing the criminal penalties in the regulations. Those responsible within businesses should not be applying the same requirements to all customers regardless of the level of risk they present because of a fear of prison if they get it wrong.

In addition to proposing changes to the regulations, my officials will be working to strengthen the risk-based approach in a number of other ways from the development of global standards by the financial action taskforce to working with the supervisors and providing further support for industry guidance in the UK.

The consultation closes on 30 August, after which changes to the regulations will be finalised and proposed with a view to them taking effect during 2012.

Schedule 7 to Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 (Annual Report to Parliament)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): This report sets out details of the Treasury's exercise during the calendar year 2010 of their functions under schedule 7 to the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008. Paragraph 38 of schedule 7 requires the Treasury to report to Parliament after each calendar year in which a direction under the powers is at any time in force.

The schedule 7 powers

Schedule 7 provides HM Treasury with powers to implement a graduated range of financial restrictions in response to certain risks to the UK's national interests. The risks it addresses are those posed by money laundering, terrorist financing, and the proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons.

Direction given under the powers in schedule 7

The Iran (Financial Restrictions) Order 2009 ("the Order") came into force on 12 October 2009. The order contained a direction by HM Treasury requiring persons operating in the financial sector to cease business relationships and transactions with Bank Mellat and Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines ("IRISL").

The direction was given on the basis that activity in Iran that facilitates the development or production of nuclear weapons poses a significant risk to the national interests of the UK. Bank Mellat had provided banking services to a UN proscribed organisation connected to Iran's proliferation sensitive activities, and been involved in transactions related to financing Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. Vessels of IRISL have transported goods for both Iran's ballistic missile and nuclear programmes.

The order was approved by the House of Commons on 28 October 2009 and by the House of Lords on 2 November 2009.

The direction was in force for a period of 12 months from the day on which the order was made, and expired on 9 October 2010, in accordance with paragraph 16 of schedule 7. A further direction was not given on its expiry because the European Council, in Decision 2010/413/CFSP of 26 July 2010 ("the Council Decision") had imposed restrictive measures against Iran, including designating both Bank Mellat and IRISL (among other entities) for an asset-freeze.

The asset-freezing provisions of the Council decision were implemented by Council Implementing Regulation (EU) No 668/2010 on 26 July 2010. The effect of the designation is that all funds and economic resources owned or controlled by Bank Mellat or IRISL in the EU were frozen with immediate effect, and it is prohibited to make funds or economic resources available to either entity. On 27 October 2010 Council Regulation (EU) 961/2010 came into force, implementing the additional financial restrictions contained in the Council decision, including a ban on providing insurance to Iranian persons.

Bank Mellat challenged the order in November 2009. The order was upheld by the High Court on 11 June 2010. Bank Mellat appealed to the Court of Appeal, which dismissed the appeal on 13 January 2011. Bank Mellat have been granted permission to appeal to the Supreme Court.

IRISL also challenged the order in early 2010. In March 2011 IRISL withdrew their challenge (which had been stayed pending the outcome of proceedings in the Commercial Court).

Licensing

Under paragraph 17 of schedule 7, the Treasury can exempt acts specified in a licence from the requirements of a direction requiring the cessation or limiting of transactions or business relations.

In operating the licensing regime in respect of the order, the Treasury's aim was to minimise the impact of the restrictions upon innocent third parties, without compromising the objective of the direction. Licences were considered on a case-by-case basis.

The Treasury issued three general licences:

> General licence 1 concerned the holding of accounts and funds of designated persons;
>
> General licence 2 concerned payments to designated persons due under prior contracts; and
>
> General licence 3 provided a seven-day grace period for the provision of insurance to designated persons, after which the prohibitions would apply.

Applications were made to the Treasury on a case-by-case basis for Acts not covered by any of the general licences. Between 12 October 2009 and 9 October 2010, 135 licence applications were received. Of these, 101 licences were granted and five applications were refused. The other 29 applications were either duplicate applications or for acts that did not require a licence.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Department's Work (Whitsun Recess 2011)

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): I would like to update hon. Members on the main items of business undertaken by my Department since the House rose on 24 May 2011.

Accountability

In August 2010, I announced plans to disband the Audit Commission and refocus audit on helping local people hold their council to account. Since then we have been examining the most cost-effective option for disbanding the Audit Commission, transferring audit into the private sector and allowing local authorities to appoint their own auditors.

On 2 June 2011, we provided an update on plans to secure a value-for-money transfer of the Audit Commission in-house practice into the private sector. In a letter from the Department's permanent secretary to councils, we set out our initial view that outsourcing all the audits currently undertaken by the in-house practice to the private sector provides the best value-for-money option. We have asked the Audit Commission to begin substantive preparatory work for outsourcing the 2012-13 audits and to design a procurement process that allows a range of firms to bid, including allowing for the possibility of an employee-owned mutual. These measures set in train our goal to radically scale back centrally driven bureaucratic targets and costly inspection, saving the taxpayers money.

Transparency

The Department is continuing its commitment to deliver transparent and open Government, using transparency to help reduce unnecessary spending and help get more for less. On 1 June, we published historic details of the Department's Government procurement card from 2008 to date, including all spending on the corporate charge cards—not just over £500. A copy of the dataset is in the Library of the House.

Promoting Growth

This Government want to create a new generation of enterprise zones across England that will encourage new business and stimulate growth. Following the announcement of the first 11 vanguard enterprise zones, on 27 May, I opened up the competition for the second wave of applications. Criteria and application forms have been issued to the 29 existing or prospective local enterprise partnerships that have expressed interest in establishing one of the next 10 enterprise zones. Applications will be assessed against their ability to deliver growth, the value for money they deliver and the robustness of implementation plans to ensure that the best possible sites are selected.

House building is a top priority for this Government and we believe that bureaucratic regional strategies slowed down the planning system and acted as an unnecessary impediment to growth. On 27 May, CALA Homes lost its second challenge against the Government's intention to revoke regional strategies, first announced in July 2010. The Court of Appeal confirmed that planning authorities and inspectors can take our intention to abolish regional strategies into consideration in deciding planning applications and appeals.

The public sector owns 16,000 hectares of previously developed land. In the Chancellor's "Plan for Growth" published alongside Budget 2011, we committed to accelerate the release of this land to encourage development. Work undertaken since March shows that by pushing harder we can unlock land to deliver up to 100,000 homes—and as many as 25,000 jobs by 2015. We are publishing the Homes and Communities Agency's land disposal strategy, and this will deliver over 11,000 housing starts over the spending review period—an increase of nearly 40% over what was previously planned.

The Minister for Housing and Local Government has set out how we can get this asset working harder for us—supporting local growth and the construction industry and building more badly needed homes. And this autumn, Government Departments will publish plans to release thousands of acres of land to house builders, so they can get on and build the homes the country needs and raise revenue for the Exchequer.

Power to communities

My Department believes that communities should have the power to shape their neighbourhoods.

On 1 June, my colleague, the Minister with responsibility for decentralisation and planning, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark) announced a further 40 communities to join the 50 already taking part in trialling the neighbourhood planning rights being introduced in the Localism Bill. Each of the 40 neighbourhood planning front-runners will receive £20,000 towards developing their plans and will be led by local authorities, working with community groups and parish councils to prepare draft plans and neighbourhood development orders.

On 2 June, my colleague, the Minister for Housing and Local Government, launched new guidelines on the community right to build. The guidelines offer information to communities considering taking forward a community-led scheme using the new power being introduced in the Localism Bill and encourage people to think about the development they would like to see in their area.

Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation fund

Auschwitz-Birkenau is an important place of remembrance; it is our collective responsibility to ensure that it stands as a perpetual reminder of the pain and destructive force of hate. On 26 May, together with the Foreign Secretary, we announced a £2.1 million Government contribution to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation fund to help ensure the lessons of Auschwitz live on for generations to come. The money will be used to ensure the long-term preservation and restoration of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp and its important place in educating people of the horrors of the Holocaust.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Horserace Totalisator Board (The Tote)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (John Penrose): In my written ministerial statement of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 28WS I said that the Government expected to be in a position to provide the House with a further update in the spring on the process for resolving the future of the Tote.

I am now able to inform the House that, after a thorough, fair and open process, the Government entered into a legally binding agreement to dispose of their interest in the Tote's successor company to Betfred on 3 June 2011 for a total consideration of £265 million. This is an excellent price, and fulfils commitments made in Budgets 2010 and 2011 to resolve the future of the Tote by June 2011. The Government strongly believe that the terms of the sale, which include important commitments by Betfred both to racing and to staff, provide an excellent outcome for the key stakeholders, and also for the taxpayer.

As I said in my statement of 31 January the Government will also honour the commitment of the previous Government to share 50% of the net cash proceeds of the sale with racing. This amounts to over £90 million and will be made available over a number of years, reflecting the broader fiscal position and the need to spend the funds in a manner consistent with EU state aid rules. The Government will pay interest on the outstanding balance, as appropriate, in the normal way.

The Government now look forward to working closely with racing to discuss the detail and to design appropriate arrangements.

The Government expect to complete the sale after the conclusion of a four to eight-week TUPE consultation and wider information sharing process with employees of the Tote. The final consideration will be subject to a technical, market standard adjustment (upwards or downwards) after completion to reflect the actual level of net debt and working capital on the Tote's balance sheet on the day the transaction completed.

EDUCATION

Arm's Length Body Reform

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): I am committed to improving the transparency, accountability and efficiency of the education system, including slimming down the number of arm's length bodies. This will allow more resource to be directed to the front line, where it matters most, and enable people to see more clearly who is accountable for what and to speak more directly to Government.

Partnerships for Schools (PfS) will be wound up and its functions transferred to the Department for Education policy directorates and the new Education Funding Agency (EFA), an executive agency of the Department. My intention is that this will happen in April 2012.

Following Sebastian James's proposals for a new system for managing capital expenditure and the wider reform of arm's length bodies, I have decided the time is right to bring together, in a single agency, the allocation and management of revenue and capital funding, including the delivery of capital programmes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Partnerships for Schools for its excellent work over the years. In particular, I am grateful for its support and advice on academies and free schools, contributing to the success of these priority reforms for the coalition Government.

I can also confirm that the post of chief executive of the Education Funding Agency will be filled by Peter Lauener, transferring from his current role as chief executive of the Young People's Learning Agency subject to the passage of the legislation necessary to dissolve that organisation. The Education Funding Agency will take over responsibility from the Young People's Learning Agency for the funding of young people's education and training—including the increasing number of academies. Peter's leadership of the Young People's Learning Agency, since its inception, has made an invaluable contribution to the success of that organisation and I expect that he will make a similar contribution to the work of the Education Funding Agency.

Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Childhood (Independent Review)

The Minister of State, Department for Education (Sarah Teather): It is natural for parents to want the best for their children. It is just as natural for them to want to do what they can to protect their children from the potential risks to their health, happiness and safety. Among the concerns that parents have is that their children are under the twin pressures to grow up too quickly and to become consumers or sexualised adults earlier than is appropriate. These pressures on children today are greater than they were for previous generations. They reach children through all forms of popular culture, including television, film, magazines, newspapers, music and the internet. Children and young people encounter them in their homes, when they go shopping or out with friends and family, and on their mobile phones and games consoles.

This Government share the concerns of parents about these pressures. On 6 December 2010 the Government asked Mr Reg Bailey, chief executive of the Mothers' Union, to carry out an independent review of the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood. His review is the first step in fulfilling the commitment we made to take action to protect children from excessive commercialisation and premature sexualisation.

I am now pleased to announce that Mr Bailey's review, "Letting Children Be Children", was published yesterday. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr Bailey has made a full and comprehensive report and fulfilled the remit he was given. He has built on the important work of other reviewers in this area, notably those of Professor David Buckingham and colleagues, and others by Professor Tanya Byron and Dr Linda Papadopoulos, and drawn on a review of more recent literature on the topic carried out by Dr Ann Phoenix of the Childhood Wellbeing Research Centre.

Mr Bailey has been particularly interested in hearing the views of the people most affected by the unwarranted pressures to grow up too quickly: parents and children. The review commissioned face-to-face surveys of the views of parents and children and qualitative research with parents, undertook a call for evidence from parents, and drew on the results of a survey of children and young people carried out by the Children and Young People's Advisory Board of the office of the Children's Commissioner.

In the course of his review Mr Bailey met representatives from retailing, advertising, marketing, broadcasting and internet service providers, their trade associations and their regulators. The call for evidence from industry and wider stakeholders drew 120 responses from businesses, trade associations and voluntary organisations. Mr Bailey also met experts in child protection, parenting champions and a range of academic and other experts in this field.

The voices of parents and children come through strongly in the four key themes identified in his report. Children and young people today are surrounded by sexualised imagery that has become an all-pervasive, ever-present backdrop to their lives, whether on television, the internet, in shops or public spaces. Parents find that goods and services for children in reputable high street shops are sometimes overly sexualised or needlessly gendered. Businesses in the children's market too often treat children only as consumers and not as children. Parents find it hard to voice their concerns or make a complaint and fear they will not be listened to if they do.

Mr Bailey has listened to the concerns of parents and takes them seriously. He understands that they want to set the standards and values their children live by and that they want support from businesses and others in doing this. He believes that their views have a special status as they speak for children, not just for themselves.

That is why, in making his recommendations, Mr Bailey is seeking ways to make businesses and regulators more responsive to the views of parents and to give parents more direct influence on how the decisions affecting children are made. Mr Bailey's view is that some businesses and regulators behave in exemplary fashion in their dealings with parents and children, but that those that do not need to step up and be as good as the best. Businesses of all kinds need to encourage feedback from parents and, where necessary, take heed of their complaints. Nor is it enough for businesses simply to comply with the relevant regulatory systems for their industry which were established to protect children: parents expect them to do their best for children, not simply stick to the rules. Where regulation is less prescriptive, businesses should play fair and not take advantage of children. And regulators too, need to connect with parents and take more recognition of their views on what is appropriate for their children.

The Government welcome Mr Bailey's analysis and the thrust of all the recommendations he has made. We note that the majority of the recommendations are directed at industry and the regulators and we look to them to see that these recommendations are implemented as fully as possible, while remaining open to industry and regulators devising alternative or additional approaches to delivering the outcomes that the recommendations are aimed at achieving.

Two recommendations are directed to the Government themselves. Mr Bailey has recommended that the Government should consider strengthening the controls on music videos. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will respond to this recommendation by consulting on the operation of the Video Recordings Act 1984 and 2010. The consultation will look at a range of options including consideration of whether it would be appropriate for the exemption that music videos enjoy from this legislation to be removed, and call for evidence in support of the costs and benefits of such a change.

This Government are committed to rolling back unnecessary regulation, but we will regulate where necessary, and in particular to protect children. By placing the responsibility for action on businesses themselves and, if necessary, their regulators, we believe that businesses will have the best opportunity and incentive to adopt policies and practices as proposed by Mr Bailey in ways which are efficient and indeed could provide new opportunities through connecting strongly with parents and children.

We will, as Mr Bailey recommends, take stock of progress in 18 months' time and consider what further measures may need to be taken to achieve the recommended outcomes.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): My noble Friend Lord Henley represented the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels on 17 May

The only item on the main agenda was the participation of the EU in negotiations on a legally binding agreement (LBA) on forests in Europe at the ministerial meeting in Oslo on 14-16 June. The presidency urged the Council to reach consensus on the two decisions required:

i) the Council decision on EU areas of competence; and

ii) the member state decision on areas of national competence.

The Commission wanted the two decisions treated as a package and agreed by consensus and the Council legal service's opinion was that this mix of EU and MS competence required a consensus agreement. Most member states supported the LBA; the UK, Sweden and the Netherlands were opposed. The UK, while supporting the voluntary aspect of Forest Europe's work, reiterated its objections on the basis that an LBA would involve both financial and policy costs. Sweden made a robust intervention which defended its national interests in the forest sector and rejected the LBA. However, there was general support for all decisions to be agreed by consensus and that further concessions might be required. The presidency referred the draft decisions back to Coreper for further consideration before the Oslo conference.

There were nine AoB points

Welfare of animals during transport—Sweden called on the Commission to consider reducing the maximum journey time for animals going to slaughter to eight hours. The Commission explained that its report, due to be published in September, would be to provide an overview of the implementation of the existing regulation. The Commission would then consider what actions were needed to address issues identified in that report. While a few other member states supported Sweden, the UK and others emphasised that existing EU legislation should be better enforced and that sound scientific evidence would be required to justify further legislation.

Animal Welfare in the Baltic Region—Lithuania explained that it had hosted a conference in to promote animal welfare in the Baltic region through the concept of responsible ownership. The Commission, a conference co-organiser, added that the conference had highlighted the importance of education and information campaigns to promote animal welfare standards.

Codex alimentarius negotiations—The presidency highlighted the importance of these discussions. The Commission urged member states to provide an adequate level of participation to ensure that the EU could maintain its leading role in setting international food standards.

G20 update—France updated the Council on the five pillar action plan it had drawn up, to tackle the volatility of agricultural commodity prices, for the June meeting of G20 Agriculture Ministers. The Commission would table specific proposals in reaction to the action plan which will be endorsed by the G20 Ministers in June. The importance of boosting the transparency of the agricultural commodity market and strengthening rules banning export restrictions was emphasised by the Commission.

Current drought situation and advance of direct payments—France, with the support from a number of member states called for an advance of 8% of direct payments and suckler cow premium to offset shortfalls in market receipts owing to recent droughts in northern Europe. The Commission observed that advances in direct payments were already permissible under the current rules and would work with France for a solution on suckler cow premium.

Conference on sustainable food consumption and production—The presidency introduced its report of the above conference, which had been based on the findings of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR). The presidency concluded that SCAR would adopt a declaration on research applications for agricultural sustainability in June, while the Commission noted that the future CAP would also need instruments to address challenges identified by the SCAR. To that end, it would be establishing an innovation partnership on agricultural research in due course.

Conclusions of the enlarged advisory group on pigmeat—The Commission reprised the conclusions, noting in particular that it would address the challenges faced by the pigmeat sector as part of the reform of the CAP. A large majority of member states intervened to lament the lack of immediate action. The presidency noted that delegations could continue to raise similar points at the informal Council on 30 May, when the question of sustainable animal husbandry would be discussed by Ministers.

Poland's request for a 30% increase in intervention price for cereals—Poland justified this request on the basis of recent rises in input costs. The Commission rejected the call as cereals price were at record highs; intervention prices were being maintained at current levels during the CAP health check and it was important that intervention functioned as a genuine safety net for producers and not as a profitable alternative to market sales.

Sugar production quota—Poland, with the support of some member states, called for an increase in the sugar production quota for all beet producing countries to offset shortfalls and high sugar prices on the EU market. Germany, the UK and Portugal argued that balance needed to be maintained on the EU market between beet producers and cane refiners, in accordance with the 2006 sugar reforms. The Commission felt a longer-term view should be maintained, noting the structural changes that would occur.

Natural Environment White Paper
("The Natural Choice")

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): This is the first Environment White Paper in years and sets out how we will deliver the coalition's commitment to protect the environment for future generations, make our economy more environmentally sustainable, and improve our quality of life and well-being.

It follows a consultation which elicited a huge public response of 15,000 submissions and I am extremely grateful to all those who took the time to respond and share their ideas.

The White Paper also responds to two major independent studies: the National Ecosystem Assessment and the Lawton report, "Making Space for Nature".

The White Paper offers an ambitious vision for the next 50 years: to be the generation that leaves the natural environment in a better state than we found it. Key aims of the paper are:

to protect and improve our natural environment;

to grow a greener economy;

to capture the benefits which nature has for our well-being; and

to secure a healthy natural environment overseas.

The NEWP aims to better engage and connect local communities with their natural environments, making it easier for them to get involved in protecting and enhancing nature in their area.

Alongside the White Paper we have also published a more detailed response to the "Making Space for Nature" review, which is available on the DEFRA website.

A copy of the White Paper is available at: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Civilian Service Medal (Afghanistan)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I am pleased to be able to inform the House that Her Majesty the Queen has graciously approved a proposal for the issue of a Civilian Service Medal (Afghanistan) to recognise service by civilians employed by Her Majesty's Government working towards a stable and secure Afghanistan. I am placing the Command Paper instituting the Civilian Service Medal (Afghanistan) in the Library of the House. It will also be published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk) and on the Governments UK and Afghanistan website (http://afghanistan.hmg.

gov.uk/). Further information on the criteria for eligibility, along with details on how to nominate individuals for the medal, will also be available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website.

HEALTH

Winterbourne View Private Hospital

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): This Government believe that people with a learning disability have the right to lead their lives free from fear and discrimination, to receive the care and support they need, and to be treated with dignity and respect.

The abuse at Winterbourne View exposed by whistleblower Terry Bryan and documented by the BBC Panorama team, will be a cause of enormous concern not just to the families and patients affected but to all who are concerned about the care and support society provides to vulnerable people. The Department extends its deepest sympathy to those who have suffered abuse and all those who love and support them.

The responsibility for the quality and safety in care crucially depends on:

- providers, who have a duty of care to each individual they are responsible for, ensuring that services meet individual needs and that there are systems and processes in place to ensure there is effective, efficient and high-quality care;
- commissioners (both primary care trusts and local authorities), who are responsible for purchasing care which meets people's needs and ensuring that they are clear about the quality and effectiveness of that care; and
- the regulators (both the quality regulator and the professions' regulators), who are responsible for assuring the quality of care.

Following an approach from "Panorama" on Friday 13 May, the national and local agencies involved have acted promptly and decisively to resolve the situation. Their first priority was ensuring the safety of patients at Winterbourne View.

A criminal investigation is also under way and the House will understand that I am limited in what I can say about particular events to avoid compromising police activities.

The steps taken since 13 May include:

- South Gloucestershire council called an immediate multi-agency adult safeguarding meeting. This meeting included the local authority, the local NHS and the police, together with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Castlebeck Care (who are the providers of services at Winterbourne View). Immediate action has been taken to assure the safety of current patients, including the suspension of 15 staff and a decision not to accept further patients at Winterbourne View. NHS commissioners have also put in place independent clinical and managerial supervision, and commissioned independent assessments of all current patients. All people in Winterbourne View now have a personal advocate;
- CQC is taking enforcement action;
- all admissions to the unit have been suspended; and
- CQC is working with others to vacate the unit and appropriately relocate the patients through a systematic search for suitable alternative placements, taking into account the specialist needs of the patients and the wishes of their families.

CQC has acknowledged that there were indications of problems at Winterbourne View which should have led to it acting sooner. CQC has issued an unreserved apology to those it has let down. Jo Williams, chair of CQC, has also written to the Department expressing her regret for CQC's failure to act in this case. She, and CQC staff, are fully committed to learning the lessons from this tragic case and to making sure that when there are signs of poor care, CQC acts quickly to protect vulnerable people. In seeking to strengthen CQC as a quality inspectorate, we will work closely with CQC to ensure it is able to carry out its functions effectively and efficiently.

In the light of incidents at Winterbourne View, CQC has started an immediate responsive review of all services run by Castlebeck Care (a further 22 locations in England). Inspections will be completed within the next two to three weeks. Reports on these individual services as well as a summary report will then be publicly available on CQC's website.

In addition, CQC will begin a focused inspection programme which will review care provided by hospitals for people with learning disabilities. The three-month programme of reviews will involve unannounced inspections at a sample of the 150 hospitals that provide care for people with learning disabilities. Where CQC identifies care that is not meeting requirements, it will be able to use its full range of enforcement powers to take immediate action to require hospitals to make necessary improvements.

Each patient at Winterbourne View has been regularly reviewed by a multi-disciplinary clinical team on behalf of the primary care trust that commissioned their care. In many cases, this process has involved conversations with patients and relatives. All patients had been reviewed in the last six months, most in the past three months. Those primary care trusts who commissioned the care for the patients who were resident in Winterbourne View are carrying out an urgent review of the processes used to commission and review patients in privately provided services. The outcome will be fed into the wider multi-agency safeguarding review.

On 1 June 2011 South Gloucestershire council announced that it will lead an independently chaired serious case review (involving all agencies) which will look in detail at the specifics of this case and we will consider its findings carefully.

I asked officials on 18 May to undertake an examination of the roles of all of the agencies involved in this case drawing together the key lessons from the reviews being undertaken by the CQC, the NHS and safeguarding boards. The Department will be assisted in that task by Mark Goldring, the chief executive of Mencap, who will not only bring an independent perspective but also a depth and breadth of knowledge of the needs of people with learning disabilities. Ministers will then report further to Parliament.

The planned reforms for health and social care should also increase our ability to drive up standards in services and to deliver joined-up services and optimal care to patients with highly specialised needs. Subject to the NHS listening exercise and the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the NHS commissioning board will commission specified specialised services, with commissioning consortia responsible for commissioning other complex services. Through consortia, general practitioners and other clinicians will have new opportunities to shape the way that health services are designed and delivered. Taking into account the increasing range of NICE quality standards, consortia will work closely with secondary care and other health care and social care professionals, and with community partners.

We will ensure that there is particular emphasis within the "pathfinder" programme on testing ways of ensuring that consortia quickly develop knowledge and expertise in relation to more complex and specialist services. This will include exploring joint commissioning with local authorities, for instance in relation to care and support for people with long-term mental health conditions, and people with learning disabilities, allowing people to remain in their local communities maintaining their relationships with family and friends.

We will ensure that the NHS commissioning board has a particular focus on promoting quality improvement in relation to more complex or specialist services.

We have also announced our intention to make safeguarding adults boards a legal requirement. This will strengthen the local governance and accountability of safeguarding arrangements. It will enable local partners in local authorities, the NHS and the police to work closely with their communities to safeguard vulnerable adults. Safeguarding adults boards currently exist in every local authority but are not mandatory. By legislating we intend them to make them stronger in their efforts to prevent abuse and to respond unequivocally where it does occur.

We will also take steps to support, and respond to, whistleblowers. Our proposals for Health Watch mean that local health watch organisations could ask CQC to investigate services where they have concerns. In addition, proposals for local health watch to signpost people to information about services and help them if they want to complain about NHS services would provide additional "early warning" of problems with particular services. This could lead to Health Watch being able to "enter and view" services and make recommendations about improvements.

Every part of the system must be working to drive up standards and take collective responsibility for minimising the chances of this series of events happening again.

National Health Service Modernisation Listening Exercise

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): On 6 April the Government announced that they would take advantage of a natural break in the legislative process to pause, listen and reflect on the national health service modernisation plans and to make any necessary improvements to the Health and Social Care Bill. The NHS Future Forum, a group of 45 professionals from across health and social care, was established to help drive the engagement process. The eight-week intensive listening period came to its conclusion on 31 May.

In order to hear from as wide a range of people as possible throughout the pause, various methods of engagement were employed. Some 250 events were held and over 8,000 people took part directly in providing their views. These meetings and events were attended by Ministers and NHS Future Forum members and involved over 250 stakeholder organisations, including patient groups, professional bodies and unions, voluntary sector groups and local authorities, as well as patients and members of the public. In addition, strategic health authorities across the country supported the listening exercise by encouraging staff, patients and communities to share their views both online and at their own regional events.

In addition to listening events, people were encouraged to air their comments and concerns through digital channels. The modernisation of health and care website recorded over 2,400 public posts alongside a further 970 privately submitted comments. Feedback was also received through in excess of 500 engagement questionnaires.

The NHS Future Forum is reflecting on what they have heard and will be reporting to the Government shortly. The Government will then respond, setting out the improvements they intend to make to the modernisation plans and the Health and Social Care Bill. The forum's report will be placed in the Library.

Southern Cross Healthcare

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): The House will be aware of concerns over the future financial viability of the care home company Southern Cross Healthcare.

The Government understand that recent events and media speculation will have caused concern to residents in Southern Cross care homes, their relatives and families and staff

The Government's primary concern in this matter is for the welfare of the residents living in Southern Cross homes. That must be paramount. For that reason, it is important that this matter is resolved in a measured and orderly manner.

Officials have been in frequent contact with Southern Cross's senior management over the last three months and continue to be so. Ministers have been monitoring the situation carefully.

Through discussions with Southern Cross, its landlords and its lenders, we have ensured that everyone involved understands their responsibilities towards the residents.

Whatever the outcome of the restructuring by Southern Cross, no one will find themselves homeless or without care. The Government will not let that happen. The Department has been working with the Local Government Association, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Care Quality Commission, to ensure that all agencies are clear on our respective roles and responsibilities.

It is for Southern Cross, its landlords and those with an interest in the business, to put in place a plan that stabilises the business and ensures continuity in the operation of the care homes. That process is in hand and we must let it continue. We believe that the commercial difficulties that Southern Cross has encountered are capable of resolution within the sector. It is not the role of Government to interfere in these commercial negotiations.

All parties involved—including other Government Departments, local authorities and the Care Quality Commission—are ready to take decisive action if these plans do not create a viable platform for the future

There are clear and effective protections in place that cover this situation. No resident—whether publicly or self-funded—would be left homeless or without care. In an emergency, a local authority can provide residential accommodation to anyone who has an urgent need for it. A local authority would continue to provide care for any self-funding resident who was unable to find or arrange care for themselves.

The Government will continue to monitor the situation closely and reiterate to all parties that they have a collective responsibility to resolve the situation in a way that does not put at risk the continuity or quality of care of residents.

E. coli Outbreak (Germany)

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): I wish to inform the House of how the Government are taking all possible measures to monitor the serious E. coli 0104 outbreak that is centred in Germany and to assess and deal with any associated risks should any arise for consumers in the UK.

Over the weekend the German authorities indicated the potential source of the outbreak is thought to be a sprouted seed mix consisting of alfalfa seeds, fenugreek, lentil and azuki beans from a farm in northern Germany. This link has been identified through epidemiological studies. However, initial test results reported yesterday (6 June) were negative. The German authorities are carrying out further tests and investigations to try to confirm the source of the outbreak.

I want to reassure the House that I am advised by the UK Food Standards Agency that there is no evidence that any of these products are present in the UK food chain. Information received to date indicates that all of the potentially affected produce was distributed locally in Germany and has been withdrawn from the German market. The 11 cases of illness we have in the UK apparently linked to this outbreak are all in people with a history of recent travel from Germany, and no new cases in the UK have been identified since Friday. .

As soon as they heard of the outbreak in Germany, the Department of Health made sure that clinicians in the NHS were alerted to watch out for cases of this illness and the Health Protection Agency issued advice to people travelling to Germany. The Health Protection Agency is also liaising closely with the authorities in Germany and counterparts across Europe.

In addition to the 11 people who have fallen ill in the UK there have been 2,231 reported cases in Germany and 102 elsewhere in Europe, again associated with travel from Germany. The strain of E. coli associated with this outbreak has the potential to cause life-threatening illness and, unfortunately, 21 people in Germany and one person in Sweden have died. My sympathy and condolences go to all those who have suffered in this outbreak.

The Food Standards Agency is in daily contact with the European Commission to ensure that the Government have the most up-to-date information on the ongoing investigations into the source of the outbreak. The Food Standards Agency is also working closely with the Health Protection Agency, which is reporting immediately any cases of illness in the UK associated with this outbreak. Both agencies are in regular contact with the Department of Health, DEFRA and other key partners to maintain an up-to-date assessment of the risk to UK consumers.

I should like to assure the House that immediate action would be taken to alert consumers, withdraw food from shops, and ban imports should the Food Standards Agency suspect that contaminated product associated with this outbreak is in the UK or may be imported into the UK. In the meantime, the clear advice to consumers is that they should follow the usual best practice in preparing and consuming fruit and vegetables, peeling and cooking where this is appropriate or otherwise thoroughly washing fruit and vegetables where these are to be eaten raw. People should also be reminded that washing hands before eating and after handling raw food is always advisable.

I will give further updates to the House on this important issue as new information becomes available.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): In accordance with section 14(3), 14(4) and 14(5) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, Lord Carlile of Berriew QC prepared a report on the operation of the Act in 2010, which I laid before the House on 3 February 2011.

I am grateful to Lord Carlile for this, his final report as independent reviewer of CT legislation, and more broadly for the valuable contribution that he has made to this important area of work. Following consultation within my Department and with other relevant agencies, I am today laying before the House my response to Lord Carlile's recommendations.

I am also laying before the House my response to the report on the renewal of the control order legislation by the Joint Committee on Human Rights (published on 1 March 2011).

Copies of the Government responses will be available in the Vote Office and a copy of each will also be placed on the Home Office website.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CDC Group plc

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): In October 2010 I informed the House of the Government's decision to reconfigure CDC in order radically to increase its development impact.

In my previous statement I set out the objectives of this reform and announced a public consultation, as well as the commissioning of a number of independent studies. The results of that consultation and the four studies have been published on the DFID website. The International Development Committee of this House has since conducted an inquiry into the future of CDC. Its report was published on 3 March 2011, and the Government's response was given on 4 May.

I can now inform the House that the Government and the CDC board have agreed a new high-level business plan, published during the Whitsun recess on 31 May, which sets out how CDC will carry through the reforms I proposed last October.

CDC will be more focused on the poor than any other development finance institution, building further on its strong concentration on the poorer countries in south Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. In future, all CDC's new investment commitments will be for the benefit of these two regions, where over 70% of the world's poorest people live. In India, CDC will move to a concentration on the eight poorest Indian states.

CDC will not invest in regions or sectors which are already well served by private investors, such as large-scale mining in many countries. Otherwise, it will be responsible for selecting, on the basis of the strongest anticipated development outcomes, investments from across a wide range of sectors.

CDC will aim to reduce the proportion of its portfolio held in other countries outside the new focus regions over time, to 15-20% by 2015. It will not invest in the better-off developing countries, unless for the benefit of poorer countries in the relevant region.

There will be a new performance framework for CDC, focused on development impact rather than CDC's own profitability. It will be a development-maximising, not a profit-maximising, enterprise. CDC will measure the impact of its investments on generation of incomes and tax revenues, broader private sector development, mobilising private capital, and improving socially and environmentally responsible management in beneficiary companies. Stretching targets will be set for these indicators for CDC to meet and they will be reviewed annually.

CDC will become bolder and more pioneering in its approach to innovation and risk: being more creative and accepting higher financial risks where these are justified by greater development benefits. It will reach the parts that other emerging market investors too often do not. But it will still ensure that it remains sufficiently profitable to offset the cost of the taxpayers' money invested in it, as defined by Her Majesty's Treasury. While development impact will be the driver, CDC will also look to build the companies in which it invests into commercially sustainable enterprises.

CDC will no longer exclusively operate indirectly, through private equity funds managed by others, but will work through a wider range of intermediaries—and importantly, build up its own direct investments. It will do this gradually and initially only through co-financing with other lead investors, as it redevelops its capacity to seek out and manage direct investments. Likewise, it will offer lending as well as equity financing, with the aim of increasing the share of loan instruments in its portfolio.

CDC will continue to make new commitments to private equity fund managers, and to support and develop suitable local investment management firms, but with the aim of reducing the fund of funds share of its assets to some 60% by 2015. In running down this part of its portfolio, the realisation of full value for money for the taxpayer will remain the primary consideration.

The remuneration framework agreed for CDC by the previous Government, which aimed to align CDC remuneration with private equity fund of funds firms in the City of London, has led to inflated remuneration. A study by independent consultants has indicated that in comparison with other publicly owned development finance institutions, and with private foundations doing similar work, CDC remuneration has risen far above the median levels elsewhere.

We must bring pay and bonuses down to a level that is fair and appropriate, but not excessive, for a publicly owned body whose very purpose is to reduce poverty. The CDC board will take immediate action to cut bonus levels by 50% for this year. Once a new CDC chief executive is in place, the Government will agree with CDC's board how to restructure pay to attract, motivate and retain people with the attitude and skills necessary to take part in this exciting new phase of CDC's existence. The new remuneration framework will prioritise development results rather than profitability and any performance-related pay will be largely deferred and based on long-term performance.

In response to the public consultation on CDC, CDC will publish a new disclosure policy aimed at making its work as transparent as possible. While observing the constraints of commercial confidentiality and the Data Protection Act, CDC will publish more information on the businesses using its capital, the funds investing it, and the economic impact of investments; and on CDC's remuneration and operating costs. More of CDC's evaluations will be conducted independently, going beyond the current 50%, and as much evaluation material as possible will be published that does not jeopardise commercial confidentiality. CDC's investment policy, agreed with DFID, will also be published.

CDC will update its investment code to reflect the latest international standards and best practice and will continue to ensure, by means of independent external audit, that its compliance and implementation are properly monitored.

CDC has strengthened its policy on taxation: where it is within CDC's discretion as originating or sole investor, CDC will not make new investments in or through harmful tax regimes, or regimes which do not comply with international tax transparency and exchange of information standards (as defined by the OECD and Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes). Where CDC does not have such discretion, CDC will make a judgment on the merits of the proposed new investment against the nature of the tax regime—and be transparent about that judgment. CDC will also be transparent in its dealings from a tax perspective. Information will be published on taxes paid within CDC's portfolio and, if specific information cannot be published, CDC will explain why.

DFID will work more closely with CDC, both at country level and at the centre. CDC's business plan will be reviewed annually and CDC will report annually to the Secretary of State on achievement against its targets, which we will publish.

The board of CDC has responded willingly and constructively to the recent scrutiny of its work and to the changes that the Government have proposed. There is now the opportunity to strengthen CDC's role as a leading instrument in the UK's policy for accelerating poverty reduction in the poorer countries through enterprise and economic growth.

TRANSPORT

Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (Public Bodies Bill)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker): The cross-Government review of non-departmental public bodies, responding to this House in October 2010, decided that the public bodies landscape needed radical reform to increase accountability, cut out duplication of activity, increase transparency and discontinue activities that were no longer needed. Among the recommendations was that the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC) be abolished.

The Public Bodies Bill is currently before Parliament. The Bill as drafted, would allow the Government to make an order abolishing DPTAC. If the Bill is passed with this provision in it, I am minded to make such an order. But before coming to a definite decision to do so, I intend to consult on the order and will make no final decision until I have taken into account the responses to that consultation.

In advance of this formal consultation I am inviting views from all those with an interest on what successor arrangements should be put in place if DPTAC is abolished. I am seeking to ensure that any successor arrangement will continue to provide my Department with consensual, pan-disability advice in a flexible way, and that any arrangement represents value-for-money.

I propose to invite comments on the options listed below:

Option 1—Rely on existing expertise in the Department for Transport policy divisions and agencies. Where ad hoc specific advice is needed, it could be sought by individual policy divisions from third party stakeholder groups, the transport industry, and experts. This would have minimal cost (although commissioned, consultancy advice could be expensive) but perhaps risks disability issues being overlooked.

Option 2—Establish a stakeholder forum, which could be convened and provide advice as and when issues arose. Again this would have minimal cost, but could again result in an increased consultancy bill. It might also be difficult to decide who to appoint to the forum. There are over 50 disability groups, and their interests sometimes conflict (e.g. the interests of the visually impaired, and those using mobility scooters). Achieving consensus could therefore be difficult.

Option 3—Rely on a cross-Government body to provide transport advice—for example the existing (non statutory) Equality 2025, run by the Department of Work and Pensions. This option should ensure that disability issues do not get overlooked. Equality 2025 is likely to be able to offer general advice—for example on transport access to the Olympics by disabled people—but would not be in a position to offer more specialist advice, for example the type of mobility scooter models suitable to be carried on public transport.

Option 4—Establish a non-statutory specialist body which would be flexible and accountable to Ministers. This may cost more than the options above, but should be less expensive than the current arrangements. However, a smaller body because of its size, may not cover all disability areas, and therefore could reduce the opportunities to provide pan-disability advice.

Option 5—A wide-ranging panel of experts from which members could be drawn, on an ad hoc basis, when specific advice is needed. A once a year meeting of all specified stakeholders could be held so that they all have the opportunity of voicing wider concerns.

My initial thinking is that option 5 would be the most appropriate path to take, but I would welcome views to inform my decision making in this area.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 8 June 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

National Minimum Wage

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): The Government have today written to the Low Pay Commission setting out the remit for its 2012 report.

The Government support the national minimum wage (NMW) and have asked the Low Pay Commission (LPC) to evaluate and make recommendations in the areas set out below, taking account of the economic and labour market context, including pensions reform.

Specifically, I have asked the Low Pay Commission to:

1. Monitor, evaluate and review the levels of each of the different minimum wage rates, with particular reference to previously identified groups and sectors, and make recommendations for October 2012.

2. Review the labour market position of young people, including those in apprenticeships and internships.

3. Consider whether NMW regulations can be made even simpler and easier to administer. This might include the removal, simplification or consolidation of any elements of the NMW.

In addition, as part of the simplification agenda, I have requested that the LPC considers the implications of the proposed abolition of the Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales, pending the outcomes of legislative process and consultation.

4. Consider the best way to give business greater clarity on future levels of the NMW, including the option of two-year recommendations, and implement the chosen solution as part of the 2012 report. Also, consider whether any of the other recommendations could be introduced more promptly.

Timing

The Low Pay Commission has been asked to report to the Prime Minister and me by the end of February 2012.

Copies of the remit have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council: 19 May 2011

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Andrew Stunell): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council met on 19 May 2011 in Brussels. The United Kingdom was represented by the UK deputy permanent representative to the EU, Andy Lebrecht.

This was a single-issue Council on the subject of Roma integration. On 5 April, the European Commission published a communication on an EU framework for national Roma integration strategies up to 2020. Based on this, the presidency invited the Council to hold an exchange of views and adopt a set of Council conclusions and an opinion from the Social Protection Committee.

The presidency stressed the importance of member states taking effective action to tackle Roma exclusion, while emphasising the added value of EU-level action. The presidency noted that the situation of the Roma differed considerably between member states and so the conclusions provided latitude to member states to tailor their approaches to national needs by committing them to preparing either national strategies or sets of policy measures. The chair of the Social Protection Committee underlined the Social Protection Committee's willingness to continue work on this issue.

The European Commission emphasised the need to step up efforts against discrimination. They said that strong commitment was needed by all member states, but acknowledged that member states' efforts to promote Roma inclusion should be proportionate to the size and situation of the Roma population on their territory. The Commission also emphasised the link with the EU2020 strategy and underlined the importance of member states' strategies or policy approaches, focusing on the four priority areas identified in the Commission's communication—health, housing, education and employment. They called on member states to submit their strategies or policy approaches by end of 2011. The Commission would then report annually to the European Parliament and Council on progress made.

The UK outlined the fact that in this country we have a strong and well-established legal framework to combat discrimination and hate crime and that this protects all individuals, including Roma, Gypsies and Travellers, from racial and other forms of discrimination, and racially motivated crime. We also acknowledged that the UK's Gypsies and Travellers none the less experience inequalities. We summarised the policy approaches being undertaken in the different parts of the UK to deal with this, including, in England, the ministerial working group on reducing Gypsy and Traveller inequalities, chaired by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

We also acknowledged the importance of co-ordination between member states to tackle organised crime, particularly the issue of human trafficking, which can affect Roma, especially Roma children, and we noted the opportunity that EU funds provide to member states to add value to their policies to improve the situation of Roma and other disadvantaged people.

Other member states welcomed the conclusions and highlighted the need for concerted action to improve the situation of the Roma. Some said they already had national or regional Roma strategies or programmes; others said they tackled Roma issues through mainstreaming into wider social inclusion programmes; while others had specific initiatives designed to address particular issues. Though most member states focused exclusively on socio-economic issues, some also made specific reference to the problem of human trafficking. Several member states, including the UK, highlighted the fact that different member states faced different situations both in terms of the size and situation of their Roma populations. Closing the debate, the presidency noted, among other things, that some member states had developed national Roma strategies while others were dealing with the issue through general inclusion policies.

Following the debate, the Council adopted conclusions on an EU framework for national Roma integration strategies. It also endorsed the opinion of the Social Protection Committee on an EU framework for national Roma integration strategies. The presidency will now seek endorsement of a Roma presidency progress report at the June European Council.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

The Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark): I, together with the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr Prisk), would like to inform the House that today we have written to the proposed Humber local enterprise partnership inviting it to put in place governance arrangements.

The Government have moved quickly to recognise the Humber local enterprise partnership proposal, submitted last week, so that they can drive forward their economic ambitions. The Humber local enterprise partnership will focus on strategic opportunities for growth around renewable energy, ports and logistics, chemicals, international trade, strategic transport, infrastructure and innovation and aims to create upwards of 20,000 jobs.

Local enterprise partnerships are a real power shift away from central Government and quangos and towards local communities and the local businesses who really understand the opportunities for, and barriers to, growth in their areas.

This announcement brings the total number of partnerships so far invited to put their governance arrangements in place to 35. Taken together these represent 1.9 million or 95% of all businesses (active enterprises) in England, 22 million employees (employee jobs figures) or 96% of all employees in England, and a population of 49 million or 96% of England's population. We will continue to work with other areas with a view to establishing further local enterprise partnerships across England.

DEFENCE

Military Low Flying 2010-11

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): The amount of low-flying training carried out in the UK low-flying system during the training year 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 was the minimum required for aircrew to reach and maintain their ability to fly at low level. A total of 49,151 hours of low-flying training were conducted across all low-flying areas. In comparative terms, there was an decrease of 8,369 hours, or approximately 14.6% on the previous training year due to the withdrawal of Harrier GR7/9 from service, and the additional operational deployment of Tornado GR4s to Italy as part of the NATO force conducting operations in Libya. The amount of operational low flying (between 250 feet and 100 feet) by fixed wing aircraft was 248 hours, accounting for 0.5% of all low flying activity.

I have today placed in the Library of the House a document giving detailed statistics of the low-flying training that has taken place in the UK low-flying system for the training year.

"1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011". This statistical appendix may be read in conjunction with the master document "Military Low Flying in the United Kingdom" that is already in the Library of the House.

Additional copies are available on request from the following address:

Air Staff
Complaints and Enquiries Unit
Ministry of Defence
Level 5 Zone H
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

EU Energy Council, Luxembourg: 10 June 2011

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): In advance of the forthcoming Energy Council in Luxembourg on 10 June, I am writing to outline the agenda items to be discussed.

The first item on the agenda will be a report on the state of play of the draft regulation on energy market integrity and transparency, on which the presidency is aiming to reach a first reading agreement between the European Parliament and the Council by the end of June. The UK supports the Commission's draft regulation, which will increase market liquidity and confidence and enhance competition across the EU. We have made good progress in the negotiations and have found reasonable solutions to those areas which gave us concern.

The Council will then adopt conclusions on a Commission communication on an energy efficiency action plan. We broadly welcome the conclusions and expect them to be adopted without discussion.

The presidency will report on the debate that took place on the Energy Roadmap for 2050 at the Informal Energy Council in May in advance of the communication that the Commission is planning to issue in the autumn. There will also be a report on the state of play of the risk and safety assessment ("stress tests") of nuclear power plants called for at the European Council on 24-25 March, following events in Fukushima. The UK is content with the scope of the test.

The Commission will then update the Council on a number of EU external energy relations issues. The Swedish delegation will present information to the Council on sustainability criteria for biomass and the Polish delegation will outline priorities for their forthcoming presidency.

Over lunch Ministers will discuss a Commission report on the investments that are likely to be needed for energy infrastructure in Europe. The UK agrees that measures must be taken to remove obstacles to infrastructure investment but that planning regimes are issues for member states to decide.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs (Pre-Council Statement)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): The Justice and Home Affairs Council is due to be held on 9 and 10 June in Luxembourg. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Justice, the Scottish Cabinet Secretary of Justice, Kenny MacAskill and I intend to attend on behalf of the United Kingdom. As the provisional agenda stands, the following items will be discussed:

The Council will begin in Mixed Committee with Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland (non-EU Schengen states). The Commission will give an update on the roll out of the central VIS (Visa Information System). The UK is not bound by the VIS regulation because it does not participate in the common visa element of the Schengen acquis.

Next there will be a presentation by the Commission on amendments to Regulation (EC) No 539/2001, which lists third country nationals who must possess visas to cross the external borders of the Schengen area and those exempt from this requirement. The amendments include provisions for a "safeguard clause" allowing the temporary suspension of existing visa waivers. The UK is not bound by this regulation as we do not participate in the migration aspects of the Schengen acquis.

The Council will seek a general approach on elements of the amending Frontex regulation. This amending regulation builds on an evaluation of the first five years of Frontex' performance and is intended to extend the remit of Frontex in areas that will allow it to be more operationally effective in future. The presidency remains optimistic that they will reach agreement of this co-decision measure before the end of June. The UK is excluded from the regulation.

There will be an update on the Commission-led project to implement the central element of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II); the UK will reiterate support for the continuation of the current SIS II project.

The Council will be asked to adopt draft Council conclusions on the readiness of Bulgaria and Romania to join Schengen. The conclusions confirm that evaluation visits have been completed and that both countries have met or exceeded the agreed Schengen criteria following a series of peer evaluations. The UK has actively participated in discussions within the Schengen Evaluation Committee and helped Bulgaria and Romania to meet the required standards. Bulgaria and Romania will join once a Council decision has been passed; this is not foreseen until at least the autumn.

The presidency will seek a general approach on the regulation creating an IT agency to manage existing IT systems. The UK supports conclusion of the regulation having secured amendments to ensure our participation.

The Council will discuss EU-Western Balkans JHA relations in relation to the post-visa liberalisation monitoring mechanism. Since 19 December 2009, the citizens of Serbia, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and since 15 December 2010 Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina enjoy visa-free travel to the EU member states if they hold a biometric passport. The follow-up mechanism set up at the beginning of 2011 covers border management, document security, combating organised crime, and fundamental rights, as well as the effective implementation of readmission agreements. The mechanism allows the Commission to engage with the countries concerned, under the framework of the stabilisation and association process, in a dialogue for the assessment of the consistent implementation of all reforms launched under the visa liberalisation roadmap. The UK does not participate in these elements of Schengen or the common EU visa policy.

Following Mixed Committee the main Council will begin with the Commission expected to present amended proposals to recast the asylum reception conditions directive and asylum procedures directive. The UK takes part in the existing directives but did not opt in to the original proposals to replace them that were brought forward in 2008 and 2009. Those proposals were strongly criticised by member states because of the significant additional regulation to which they would subject their asylum systems, and because they would grant asylum seekers additional unnecessary entitlements that would attract false claims for asylum. The Commission is therefore amending them in order to make agreement more likely.

Next the presidency will update the Council on progress of negotiations on three legal migration directives which the UK has not opted into. The first measure would establish common rules for the admission of third country nationals onto the territory of the EU where they are seeking admission on the basis of an intra-company transfer and make provision for intra-EU movement of such personnel. The second measure would establish common rules for the admission of third country nationals onto the territory of the EU where they are seeking admission for the purpose of seasonal work. The third measure would establish a single procedure for the issuance of a residence permit to, and a common set of rights for, third country nationals admitted onto the territory of the EU for the purpose of work.

Council conclusions have been proposed on borders, migration and asylum; these will be discussed in the context of recent Commission communications on migration and on a dialogue for migration, mobility and security with the southern Mediterranean, as well as the second annual report on the implementation of the migration pact. The proposed Council conclusions are intended to prepare for the European Council on 24 June, which will focus on migration with particular reference to the developing situation in the middle east and north Africa.

There will also be a discussion on Council conclusions regarding the EU's strategy on readmission. These conclusions follow the recent evaluation by the Commission on the operation and effectiveness of readmission agreements currently in force. The UK welcomes the Commission evaluation and supports a number of recommendations made in it.

The EU counter-terrorism co-ordinator (EU CTC) will present his six-monthly discussion paper on EU CT strategy. The discussion paper aims to provide a stock-take of the current CT threat and proposes specific policy initiatives under the following headings: prevent, transport security, research and CBRN. The UK will promote the importance of co-ordinating internal and external CT activity. The Commission will also present its air cargo security progress report on the implementation of the EU action plan of 30 November 2011. There will be a vote on implementing the new EU cargo security regime at the Transport Regulatory Committee on 8 June. The UK supports the proposals in the EU action plan.

Next the Council will be asked to adopt draft Council conclusions on establishing priorities in the fight against organised crime over the next two years. The UK supports the priorities identified in the conclusions which have been drawn from Europol's organised crime threat assessment. There will also be a presentation of complementary approaches and actions to prevent and combat organised crime: A collection of good practice examples from EU member states. This practical approach to tackling organised crime is supported by the UK.

The justice day will commence with the Council seeking a general approach on the directive on combating attacks against information systems. The directive seeks to repeal and replace the current framework decision on combating attacks on information systems and bring member states' legislation up to date with technical developments and threats in this area. The UK has opted in to the directive which remains under parliamentary scrutiny in the House of Commons.

Next the Council will discuss the European Investigation Order (EIO). The EIO is draft directive aimed at streamlining the process of mutual legal assistance between participating EU countries. The UK has opted in. The presidency is seeking to agree a partial general approach to articles 1-18. While we believe that there have been significant improvements to the original draft of the EIO we continue to have a concern in particular about the handling of coercive measures in article 10. The EIO also remains subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

The presidency will also seek political compromise on the main issues on the European certificate of succession. This measure aims to establish common rules and procedures relating to cross-border inheritance matters. The UK did not opt-in to the measure, but is playing an active part in negotiations.

The presidency had planned to seek agreement on a regulation on the possibility of attributing legal value to the electronic version of the Official Journal. However a number of member states, including the UK, have placed scrutiny reservations on the text and it is clear that political agreement will not be possible at this Council. Therefore we expect this item to be removed from the agenda.

The Council will then agree a resolution on the roadmap for strengthening the rights of victims. The roadmap is a statement of political intent, and sets out the basis for future legislative measures. The UK hope to be able to agree to this resolution.

There will be a progress report on e-justice provided by the presidency. The aim of e-justice is to promote the use of IT in the justice area—in particular through the provision of information.

The presidency will give a state of play report on EU accession to the European Convention of Human Rights. The accession by the EU will mean that the EU and its institutions are directly bound by the convention. The negotiating mandate was agreed at the JHA Council on 4 June 2010.

The Commission will make a presentation about the victims package which they published on 18 May. The package included two draft legislative instruments: a draft directive to replace the 2001 Council framework decision on the standing of victims in criminal proceedings (2001/220/JHA) and a proposal for a regulation on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters. The Commission also published a communication setting out further work that it intends to undertake in this area.

It is anticipated that the Commission will also present an EU anti-corruption package. One of the expected documents is likely to include consideration of the modalities of EU accession to the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO).

The presidency will also agree Council conclusions on the memory of the crimes committed by the totalitarian regimes in Europe. The draft conclusions reaffirm the importance raising awareness of the crimes committed by the totalitarian regimes in Europe and promoting a shared memory of them; and encourage member states and the Commission to promote their memory in various ways.

The Council is also expected to adopt Council conclusions on the ninth Eurojust annual report (calendar year 2010).

The Commission will present its approach to future work towards protecting EU public money against all forms of criminal conduct, including fraud. Its communication focuses on an integrated policy to protect EU financial interest by criminal law and by administrative investigations, including effective and equivalent legal action in member states and strengthening the institutional framework at European level. The Government are determined to see action taken to tackle fraud more effectively in relation to EU funds. For example, they broadly supports the aim of strengthening OLAF's operational efficiency and improving its governance. However, this communication covers a wide array of policy proposals, which the Government will need to scrutinise closely in forthcoming working level discussions.

There will be an information point on the Missing Children Europe conference 25-26 May 2011 and under AOB there will be a presentation on the conference of Ministers of the Western Balkans countries requested by Slovenia and a presentation of the project "Police Equal Performance" requested by Austria.

TRANSPORT

NATS (Government Share Ownership)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): Today I am publishing a call for evidence to support my decision making in whether to sell all, part or none of the Government's 49% shareholding in NATS—formerly National Air Traffic Services.

It was announced in the Budget March 2011 that the Government

"intends to realise value from its shareholding in NATS, subject to considering the views of key interested parties".

This commitment reflects the Government's policy that assets held in the public sector, where there is no policy requirement to do so, tie up state resources that could deliver better value for money for the public if used elsewhere. We are seeking evidence through this process from key interested parties including the regulator, employees of NATS and the wider aviation industry, to establish whether or not there is a policy requirement to retain a shareholding in NATS.

NATS provides strategically important services to the UK and as such, I want to ensure that the overall aviation policy objectives of safety, security, economic regulation, civil/military co-operation, environment and supporting the Single European Sky programme are not compromised by any decisions we take over future share ownership. The call for evidence document outlines the controls and protections that exist in NATS' operating environment independent of the Government's shareholding and seeks evidence from consultees on what, if any, protections would be required on top of these to allow the delivery of these objectives.

The call for evidence will be open from today until 6 July and we aim to publish the results shortly after the closing date. The evidence collected will support my final decision about whether to sell Government shares in NATS.

Ship-to-Ship Transfers

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): I wish to inform the House of a further development concerning the Government's legislation to regulate ship-to-ship transfers of oil carried as cargo.

As I explained in my written ministerial statement on 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 26WS amending regulations have been drafted, and work is in train to ensure that these amending regulations take account of representations made—including representations arising from an extension, over the period 9 February to 10 March 2011, of the review of the Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations 2010 for the benefit of Suffolk residents and bodies.

The conclusion that I drew from the main review which was carried out in July-September 2010 was that the provisions prohibiting all ship-to-ship transfers outside harbour authority areas will be replaced by provisions restricting ship-to-ship transfers outside harbour authority areas to a single designated area within the UK territorial sea and establishing a system of permits issued by the MCA, giving effect at the same time to the new chapter 8 of annex I to the MARPOL convention.

Having taken account of all the representations made, both in the main review and in the extension of the review in February and March, I have again come to the conclusion that this is the appropriate course of action and that the designated area for ship-to-ship transfers (other than in harbour authority waters) shall be the waters off the Suffolk coast where ship-to-ship transfers are already carried out.

The recognition of these waters off the Suffolk coast as a suitable area for carrying out ship-to-ship transfers is based on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's and the industry's actual experience of the successful use of these waters for ship-to-ship transfer operations over a number of years without pollution of the seas and coasts. The MCA will continue to monitor such operations closely to ensure they are carried out to the highest possible safety standards.

I shall place an addition to the analytical table previously provided in December 2010, which summarises the points of substance made in the written representations and the meetings held with interested parties during the period of the extension of the review in February and March, in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Department's website.

As I also indicated in my written ministerial statement on 30 March, the amended Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations 2010 are intended to come into force on 1 October 2011. In common with other new domestic secondary legislation, these regulations will contain provisions setting an automatic expiry date and requiring them to be reviewed in a specified number of years.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 9 June 2011

TREASURY

Tax Consultations

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): Since the June Budget 2010, the Government have taken a number of steps to improve tax policy making, with consultation on policy and scrutiny of legislation as the cornerstones.

Budget 2011 announced a number of tax policy changes and longer-term tax reforms that will be subject to consultation. These are summarised in the tax consultation tracker, which is available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/tax_updates.htm.

HM Revenue and Customs and HM Treasury will tomorrow publish the following consultation documents:

> *A new incentive for charitable legacies*—A consultation to inform policy detail on how best to implement a lower rate of inheritance tax when leaving 10% or more of an estate to charity.
>
> *Consultation on the patent box*—A consultation on how to implement a reduced 10% rate of corporation tax for profits arising from patents.
>
> *Research and development tax credits: response and consultation*—A response to the November 2010 consultation and detail of further proposed changes to the research and development tax reliefs.

Updates to dates for some consultations planned for June and July have been made to the tax consultation tracker.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Homes Programme

The Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark): Further to the written statement of 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 36WS from my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Local Government, I am today announcing the publication of the technical revision to annex B of planning policy statement 3, to make clear that affordable rent falls within the definition of affordable housing for planning purposes. Also published today is a document summarising the responses that were received to the consultation paper, planning policy statement 3: "Planning for Housing Technical Change to Annex B, Affordable Housing Definition", published on 14 February 2011; and an "Affordable Rent Impact Assessment".

Planning policy statement 3, with a revised annex B can be found at: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps3housing.

The summary of responses is at: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps3annexsummary.

The affordable rent impact assessment at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/rentimpactassessment.

The above documents have been placed in the Library of the House.

EDUCATION

Education and Youth Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education (Tim Loughton):

EDUCATION COUNCIL

I represented the UK at the Education Council. The Council was preceded by a ministerial breakfast on the subject of adult learning. During this I set out UK policy on our skills strategy, reforms to the national careers service, and the forthcoming Government consultation on informal adult learning.

Early school leaving

The Council agreed a recommendation on policies to reduce early school leaving by qualified majority. The UK voted against the recommendation as it was inconsistent with our national approach. While we understand and accept the importance of reducing early school leaving in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy, we have concerns with the policy approach suggested in the recommendation. For example, some of the language on "modularisation of courses" and "individualised learning approaches" sits uncomfortably with our strong belief that it is for teachers to decide the educational styles that best suit their students' needs. Commissioner Vassiliou later noted that

> "in response to the UK points, Early School leaving cannot be solved by education alone".

A ministerial debate on this subject focused on prevention policies to combat early school leaving with particular emphasis on children from a socio-economically disadvantaged background, including the Roma. Member states were asked about national mechanisms for evaluating these policies, and the role of the EU in this area. I and a number of other member states noted that quality education, literacy and high attainment were key to combating early school leaving. I also noted that teachers had a key role to play and that pupil attainment was central to this issue, alongside clear measures of accountability. The presidency stated that a summary of this discussion would be presented to the June European Council.

Early childhood education and care

The Council adopted conclusions on early childhood education and care. The conclusions invite member states to analyse and evaluate existing early childhood services in terms of availability, affordability and quality. They also invite the Commission to support member states in exchanging good policies and practices and to broaden the evidence base in this field.

Promoting the educational mobility of young people

A Council recommendation on promoting the educational mobility of young people was also agreed. The recommendation suggests a number of measures including: improving information and guidance on educational mobility opportunities, improving language teaching and exchanges between schools, reducing administrative burdens linked to organising educational experiences abroad, and improving procedures for validation and recognition of educational outcomes following the period abroad.

Italy abstained in the vote to agree the recommendation over concerns about referring to a monitoring system proposed by the Commission, known as the "mobility scoreboard". A study into the feasibility of such a scoreboard is yet to be carried out.

YOUTH COUNCIL

The UK deputy permanent representative Andy Lebrecht represented the UK at the Youth Council.

Effective participation of young people in democratic life

The Council adopted a resolution on encouraging new and effective forms of participation of all young people in democratic life. The UK is strongly in favour of youth participation and I will host a representative young people's advisory group that will scrutinise and provide feedback on emerging policy proposals.

Structured dialogue with young people on youth employment

The Council adopted a resolution on structured dialogue with young people and the EU Institutions on youth employment. The resolution recommends various changes to the structured dialogue with young people. This includes political follow-up of the results, greater participation by disadvantaged youth and improved working methods that provide a meaningful process for young people.

Voluntary activities

Ministers also debated voluntary activities of young people and their contribution to the development of local communities. National initiatives mentioned included subsidies for youth organisations and national citizenship programmes (in Italy, France, and the UK, where national citizen service will have its pilot this summer).

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Feed-in Tariffs

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Gregory Barker): On 18 March I announced the start of a consultation on proposals to change feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaic (PV) installations larger than 50 kilowatts and farm-scale anaerobic digestion (AD) of up to 500 kilowatts.

Having carefully considered the responses received, of which there were more than 500, I can now confirm the outcome of that consultation and the fast-track review of FITS.

It is clear from all the evidence received as part of the consultation that the demand for feed-in tariff subsidy has grown so substantially that it now significantly exceeds the amount of funding available during this spending review period. Without urgent intervention, the scheme would have been completely overwhelmed within a very short period of time. That is why it is so important for us to act now: it is vital that we protect the integrity of the scheme and can continue to support the ambitious roll-out of new green decentralised energy technologies in homes, communities and small business.

With that aim in mind, the coalition has decided to proceed with the proposed tariff reductions for solar photovoltaic (PV) installations larger than 50 kilowatts and all stand-alone installations, and increases for farm-scale AD as set out in the consultation document. The detail of this decision and the analysis underpinning it are set out in "Feed-in Tariffs Scheme: Summary of Responses to the Fast Track Consultation and Government Response" which the Government are publishing today and will be available at: www.decc.gov.uk/FITs.

I recognise that this decision will be unwelcome to some, including those involved in large solar PV projects who disagreed with the proposals relating to PV. I can assure the House that it is not a decision that has been taken lightly. All the concerns raised by respondents, together with alternative approaches suggested, have been carefully considered, analysed and taken into account.

However, these concerns have to be balanced against the need for a responsible approach to public subsidies like FITs, to ensure value-for-money for consumers and ensure scheme longevity. The fact remains that under the current tariffs, large-scale solar PV projects are securing much higher returns on investment than the scheme intended. This is reflected in the unanticipated number of such projects now in the pipeline.

Put simply, the FITs scheme has a vital role in building a more decentralised energy economy, but if we do not act now to control short-term expenditure on solar PV more closely in line with the forecasts that we inherited from the last Government, the negative impacts on the scheme will be considerable and the amount of funding for other technologies and smaller, domestic-scale solar PV will be severely constrained.

To give effect to these tariff changes, today a set of licence modifications to amend the standard licence conditions of electricity supply licences in Parliament. Subject to any necessary state aid clearance and the parliamentary process required by the Energy Act 2008, the generation tariffs changes will apply from 1 August 2011.

The Government will not act retrospectively and these changes to generation tariffs will only affect new entrants into the FITs scheme from 1 August 2011. Installations which are already accredited for FITs at the time will not be affected.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The Home Office is today publishing a consultation on employment-related settlement, tier 5 of the points-based system and overseas domestic workers. A copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

Immigration has enriched our culture and strengthened our economy, but it must be controlled so that people have confidence in the system. This Government have already introduced a limit on non-EU economic migrants entering the UK; reshaped tiers 1 and 2 of the points-based system to increase selectivity and skills requirements; and announced changes to tier 4, the student visa system. These policies will result in a downward trend in net migration and a reduction in abuse, but we need to take further action to ensure we reach sustainable levels.

This consultation is the next stage in our immigration reforms. We intend to break the automatic link between coming to the UK to work and settling here permanently. In 1997, there were fewer than 10,000 employment-related grants of settlement; by 2010, that number had risen to over 84,000. We need to be more selective about who we allow to stay. The consultation considers how we do that. Its starting point is that we need to be clearer in our labelling of temporary and permanent migration routes to enable migrants and the public to better understand the immigration system. We propose to reposition tier 2 as a temporary route, predominantly a means of filling short-term skills shortages in the UK labour market. Most tier 2 migrants should expect to leave the UK after a maximum of five years in the UK. In future, only a tightly controlled minority will be permitted to stay permanently, where it is in the interests of the UK to do so. We are seeking views on how to achieve this in a way which enables the best outcomes for the economy. Alongside the public consultation, the Home Secretary is also commissioning advice from the Migration Advisory Committee on the economic effects of removing or restricting settlement rights, and on criteria for identifying the most economically important migrants for settlement. We have already announced reforms to the tier 1 investor and entrepreneur categories, including the possibility of accelerated settlement for these high-value migrants. We will be consulting, however, on whether tier 1 exceptional-talent migrants should have an automatic route to settlement and whether we should remove the ability of all tier 1 migrants to apply for further leave to remain after five years in the UK. To aid integration and social cohesion, we are also considering the introduction of an English language requirement for the dependants of economic migrants who signal their intention to apply for settlement.

The consultation also sets out proposals for reform of tier 5 of the points-based system and the overseas domestic worker routes.

The Government do not plan any reforms to the tier 5 (youth mobility) category. We do, however, want to consider restricting leave under the tier 5 (temporary worker) categories to 12 months, to reinforce the temporary nature of the route, which is intended to be primarily for non-economic purposes, such as scientific exchange and artistic and cultural activities. The consultation asks whether it is right that migrants in these categories should be able to be accompanied by dependants and whether those dependants should have open access to the UK labour market. We will also consider raising the threshold for entry to the Government-authorised exchange sub-category of tier 5 so that the skills requirement is at graduate level, bringing it into line with the revised tier 2 arrangements. Our intention is that the UK ancestry route should remain unchanged.

Finally, the consultation considers the two routes by which overseas domestic workers may enter the UK to accompany or join their employer's household. Currently, there are two routes: one for domestic workers in private households and one for private servants working in diplomatic households. Both allow for extended periods of temporary leave (five years and six years respectively) and both enable the domestic worker to apply for settlement after five years. This is exceptionally generous, and sits ill with an immigration system focused on meeting identified skill shortages and securing the brightest and best migrants. We are also conscious that overseas domestic workers may be vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. The national referral mechanism provides an effective means of protection and support for victims but we are considering tackling the problem at source. So as well as seeking views on restricting leave to a maximum of six or 12 months, which would allow domestic workers to accompany their employer for a short period only, and removing the right to bring dependants, we also want to consider whether we should close the private households route altogether. This would oblige those wanting domestic workers to recruit instead from the UK labour market, with the rights and protections that affords.

Details of the public consultation can be found on the Home Office website and copies will also be placed in the Library of the House.

The consultation will run for three months, until 9 September and we will announce our firm plans in due course. As the Home Secretary announced in February, we intend the settlement reforms will affect those workers who entered economic migration routes under the immigration rules in force from 6 April this year and who, under the current system, could have expected to apply for settlement in 2016. The timing of reforms to tier 5 and the overseas domestic worker routes will depend on the outcome of consultation, but we would anticipate them taking effect during 2012.

A further consultation document will be published later this year, considering the rules applying to those who come to the UK for family reasons such as marriage.

Police (Firearms)

The Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice (Nick Herbert): The latest figures on police use of firearms in England and Wales from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 show that:

> The number of police operations in which firearms were authorised was 18,556—a decrease of 1,395 (7%) on the previous year.
>
> The number of authorised firearms officers (AFO's) was 6,979—an increase of 111 (1.6%) officers overall on the previous year.
>
> The number of operations involving armed response vehicles was 14,089—a decrease of 2,475 (15%) on the previous year.
>
> The police discharged a conventional firearm in six incidents (up from five incidents in 2008-09).

Full details are set out in the tables below:

Table 1- Number of Operations in which Firearms were Authorised

	Year								
	2001/02	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
AVON & SOMERSET	195	262	311	333	247	285	328	339	267
BEDFORDSHIRE	237	301	442	475	575	663	1,217	1,229	869

Table 1- Number of Operations in which Firearms were Authorised

					Year				
	2001/02	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	114	57	104	241	201	207	316	460	490
CHESHIRE	419	451	397	358	367	340	317	269	314
CLEVELAND	37	170	453	530	657	293	577	667	430
CITY OF LONDON	40	131	364	404	323	239	365	63	38
CUMBRIA	71	77	72	152	112	92	92	86	80
DERBYSHIRE	275	401	369	287	305	223	211	310	198
DEVON & CORNWALL	101	96	112	71	84	80	143	170	185
DORSET	184	193	231	223	263	354	258	369	351
DURHAM	89	83	156	144	291	340	206	181	140
ESSEX	323	312	275	296	432	245	529	529	444
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	165	185	127	176	229	280	162	132	175
GTR MANCHESTER	580	518	507	461	478	481	497	524	415
HAMPSHIRE	198	162	208	237	289	352	382	362	292
HERTFORDSHIRE	112	172	195	185	187	280	303	343	205
HUMBERSIDE	297	187	183	206	362	235	209	123	133
KENT	115	137	207	163	219	170	202	280	275
LANCASHIRE	232	238	318	241	240	410	388	281	245
LEICESTERSHIRE	300	268	295	260	363	334	318	347	280
LINCOLNSHIRE	477	392	386	294	220	157	158	133	73
MERSEYSIDE	1,020	628	751	733	669	727	829	556	701
METROPOLITAN	2,447	3,199	3,563	2,964	4,711	3,878	4,948	5,044	5,534
NORFOLK	175	200	178	195	175	153	174	274	192
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	43	138	148	158	137	156	159	120	109
NORTHUMBRIA	1,440	1,275	1,140	977	611	332	229	154	156
NORTH YORKSHIRE	92	100	147	185	183	282	329	289	272
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	384	452	459	408	394	289	270	245	194
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	258	463	484	546	749	737	628	538	533
STAFFORDSHIRE	232	281	255	216	171	250	244	209	183
SUFFOLK	163	270	251	153	202	256	193	237	225
SURREY	245	247	203	151	222	222	375	479	188
SUSSEX	248	204	280	187	190	201	331	331	227
THAMES VALLEY	179	167	195	289	427	264	293	344	319
WARWICKSHIRE	130	149	164	124	180	162	150	145	129
WEST MERCIA	117	91	197	162	122	155	202	171	122
WEST MIDLANDS[1]	822	902	1,377	1,264	1,044	1,557	1,063	1,109	933
WEST YORKSHIRE	757	604	575	853	1,335	1,272	1,130	1,367	1,512
WILTSHIRE	45	58	63	88	139	226	128	158	152
DYFED POWYS	28	29	28	51	63	72	155	92	71
GWENT	20	37	40	81	94	133	334	152	151
NORTH WALES	302	259	197	223	350	340	259	185	126
SOUTH WALES	283	281	250	236	279	308	293	555	628
TOTAL	*13,991*	*14,827*	*16,657*	*15,981*	*18,891*	*18,032*	*19,894*	*19,951*	*18,556*

Table 2 – Number of Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs)

					Year				
	2001/02	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
AVON & SOMERSET	116	84	122	118	117	103	123	127	124
BEDFORDSHIRE	48	53	58	56	59	57	53	50	54
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	56	71	60	60	50	46	49	51	45
CHESHIRE	81	89	75	76	73	80	72	88	95
CLEVELAND	85	80	95	100	100	105	97	83	72
CITY OF LONDON	73	72	86	89	86	45	49	50	51
CUMBRIA	92	87	89	90	89	90	97	86	91
DERBYSHIRE	80	69	70	74	75	69	61	61	71
DEVON & CORNWALL	108	115	132	123	122	132	142	146	157
DORSET	57	59	60	64	62	67	71	79	65
DURHAM	86	102	97	103	100	102	89	82	81
ESSEX	180	184	186	202	205	220	225	223	223
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	71	80	82	93	92	94	95	97	108

Table 2 – Number of Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs)

					Year				
	2001/02	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
GTR MANCHESTER	219	202	205	187	245	217	250	296	237
HAMPSHIRE	87	94	94	92	97	83	85	93	96
HERTFORDSHIRE	46	47	50	53	52	49	53	50	46
HUMBERSIDE	96	96	96	101	92	83	87	80	77
KENT	113	93	90	94	94	98	87	110	103
LANCASHIRE	138	129	122	115	123	103	143	105	94
LEICESTERSHIRE	69	68	51	53	59	67	64	73	76
LINCOLNSHIRE	91	87	78	86	87	75	77	69	60
MERSEYSIDE	78	84	94	93	129	139	153	154	141
METROPOLITAN	1,805	1,823	2,060	2,134	2,331	2,584	2,530	2,740	2,856
NORFOLK	104	109	114	125	119	127	114	106	111
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	51	56	52	50	56	59	53	50	55
NORTHUMBRIA	125	99	90	93	98	92	96	95	102
NORTH YORKSHIRE	66	64	60	56	78	67	67	63	64
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	136	131	138	138	149	146	137	133	91
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	92	100	98	122	116	118	106	99	102
STAFFORDSHIRE	71	63	67	76	70	82	82	75	85
SUFFOLK	90	80	96	88	84	78	74	67	68
SURREY	62	48	53	49	51	45	54	54	60
SUSSEX	120	141	134	130	129	129	123	123	114
THAMES VALLEY	156	180	172	176	180	186	180	180	193
WARWICKSHIRE	50	51	46	53	55	59	63	66	76
WEST MERCIA[2]	125	131	139	141	152	133	163	137	115
WEST MIDLANDS	111	110	124	134	145	175	177	165	180
WEST YORKSHIRE	116	132	140	130	150	148	147	135	156
WILTSHIRE	71	78	80	74	72	69	67	74	69
DYFED POWYS	77	62	58	79	68	72	67	63	64
GWENT	57	60	71	74	86	64	63	54	61
NORTH WALES	83	75	73	65	57	56	57	53	76
SOUTH WALES	138	125	139	134	130	115	138	121	114
TOTAL	*5,776*	*5,763*	*6,096*	*6,243*	*6,584*	*6,728*	*6,780*	*6,868*	*6,979*

Table 3 – Number of Operations Involving Armed Response Vehicles (ARVs)

				Year					
	2001/02	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
AVON & SOMERSET	173	215	249	312	167	192	292	231	137
BEDFORDSHIRE	172	269	414	419	534	639	1,171	1,188	819
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	43	45	155	172	160	172	221	366	393
CHESHIRE[3]	523	337	356	773	807	793	642	221	
CLEVELAND	13	63	86	154	285	290	554	661	426
CITY OF LONDON	39	131	364	275	234	183	200	63	32
CUMBRIA	53	45	65	134	90	72	74	56	51
DERBYSHIRE	253	363	312	254	257	183	187	252	169
DEVON & CORNWALL	76	32	94	54	54	76	120	138	168
DORSET	182	180	215	195	246	322	238	347	349
DURHAM	57	66	96	91	256	204	192	164	140
ESSEX	165	176	138	138	155	224	226	391	273
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	140	166	109	121	145	213	147	120	100
GTR MANCHESTER	528	406	440	364	306	214	196	460	292
HAMPSHIRE	116	108	128	167	178	270	271	247	194
HERTFORDSHIRE	81	129	157	155	160	226	262	311	182
HUMBERSIDE	273	170	158	184	335	232	183	94	111
KENT	89	132	193	124	183	373	364	325	227
LANCASHIRE	192	185	273	228	232	383	313	279	239
LEICESTERSHIRE	292	232	269	232	328	313	268	332	263
LINCOLNSHIRE	470	367	355	276	210	147	153	128	63
MERSEYSIDE	974	547	687	677	611	644	734	445	631
METROPOLITAN	1,667	2,447	2,423	2,322	2,572	2,770	2,303	3,283	3,563
NORFOLK	157	186	169	163	149	133	165	252	176

Table 3 – Number of Operations Involving Armed Response Vehicles (ARVs)

	Year								
	2001/02	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	25	90	99	89	101	119	127	117	88
NORTHUMBRIA	1,349	1,204	1,063	893	585	299	199	129	134
NORTH YORKSHIRE	60	67	110	144	208	268	318	287	267
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	333	397	404	336	342	256	246	197	175
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	221	280	322	438	632	522	493	387	325
STAFFORDSHIRE	208	241	212	183	154	222	231	192	155
SUFFOLK	116	160	194	119	149	204	148	206	189
SURREY	225	240	190	140	204	209	380	469	174
SUSSEX	189	171	250	163	162	165	311	248	177
THAMES VALLEY	174	167	179	265	355	227	254	292	272
WARWICKSHIRE	104	31	138	102	144	121	113	100	92
WEST MERCIA	100	111	241	152	94	120	121	128	148
WEST MIDLANDS[1]	563	592	975	952	745	518	716	739	689
WEST YORKSHIRE	609	565	543	656	1,040	1,048	1,098	1,361	1,203
WILTSHIRE	43	39	28	54	124	190	359	499	120
DYFED POWYS	28	29	28	48	55	72	135	80	59
GWENT	16	16	23	74	85	109	257	138	147
NORTH WALES	265	198	153	180	299	295	221	156	107
SOUTH WALES	218	253	161	165	223	283	222	485	570
TOTAL	*11,574*	*11,848*	*13,218*	*13,137*	*14,355*	*14,515*	*15,425*	*16,564*	*14,089*

Table 4 – Number of Incidents where Conventional Firearms were Discharged

	Year								
	2001/02	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
INCIDENTS	*11*	*10*	*4*	*5*	*9*	*3*	*7*	*5*	*6*
% of incidents compared with number of authorised operations	*0.079*	*0.067*	*0.024*	*0.031*	*0.048*	*0.017*	*0.033*	*0.025*	*0.032*

Source: Association of Chief Police Officers (Does not include discharges for animal destruction or during police training)

Notes for tables:

1. Revised figure for 2007/08 from West Midlands Police

2. Revised figure for 2008/09 from West Mercia Constabulary

3. Cheshire did not record ARV operations for 2009/10

Source: Home Office Public Order Unit, based on information aggregated from figures provided by individual police forces as part of the Home Office annual data requirement. This was followed by a further quality assurance process involving the Home Office asking individual forces to verify and sign off their figures.

The information provided is a regular annual update of figures previously published and available on the Home Office website here:

http://tna.europarchive.org/20100419081706/http:/ www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/ firearms/index.html.

Home Office guidance to forces for providing these figures is contained within the booklet "Annual Data Requirement, Police Personnel and Performance Data, Notes for Guidance". For the purpose of this statistical return AFOs are deemed to be deployed when

> "they are required to conduct a specific task during which their possession of a firearm (with appropriate authorisation) is a required element"(*Chapter 3, paragraph 3.1 ACPO "Manual of Guidance on Police Use of Firearms"*).

In addition to the total number of operations, a further sub-category is required regarding those operations where the initial or sole response is by armed response vehicle (ARV).

Each incident will be classed as only one operation regardless of the number of personnel/deployments or tactics employed to deal with the incident.

Deployments also include those incidents where AFOs "self-authorise".

The number of officers authorised to use firearms as at 31 March 2010.

TRANSPORT

No. 32 (The Royal) Squadron

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): As the House will be aware, work was carried out by the royal household in 2008 to consider the option for procuring a small aircraft for official travel within the UK. This work concluded that such an acquisition could not at that time be justified on the grounds of value-for-money.

The royal household therefore continue to make use of chartered air services and the scheduled market and, where irreducible spare capacity exists, will continue to make use of No. 32 (The Royal) Squadron.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment Support (Disabled People)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): I have today published a copy of the report to the Government by Liz Sayce, chief executive of RADAR, reviewing specialist disability employment programmes. Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office.

Meeting the aspirations of disabled people for employment in the full range of jobs and sectors of the economy, and ensuring that the services we provide reflect the needs of individual disabled people in the modern workplace are important goals. The employment services we provide for disabled people must be effective. This report shows clearly that there is more that needs to be done.

I welcome this review, and the central theme that resources for supporting disabled people into and in employment should be primarily focused on disabled people themselves.

The report contains a range of specific recommendations, and the Government intend to consult on these before making any decisions. A full response and consultation will be issued shortly.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 10 June 2011

TREASURY

Double Taxation Conventions

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): A new Double Taxation Convention with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia was signed on 9 June 2011. The text of the convention has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on the HM Revenue and Customs website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order of Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Dry Weather Conditions

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): The House will be aware that the current dry spell has created one of the driest springs on record. Indeed it has been the driest spring across England and Wales since 1990 and the driest spring on record in south-east and central southern England. Today, the Environment Agency has announced a move to drought status for Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, parts of Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire and western Norfolk, triggered by river and ground water levels, and risk to the environment and to farmers. Most of the south-east (except an area covering central and northern London) is at risk of drought.

Some reservoir levels are below normal for the time of year and ground water levels are in decline as we expect at this time of year. But it is our rivers that are seeing the greatest impact. The majority of rivers across south-west, central and eastern England have below average river flows with some experiencing exceptionally low flows.

These low flows are impacting on farmers that rely on spray irrigation during dry spells in the growing season to water their crops. Water for spraying is abstracted from our rivers under licence and conditions attached to those licences have meant that some farmers have had to stop taking water for irrigation. In addition, a small number of notices have been issued to prevent abstraction for irrigation to protect the Romney Marsh site of special scientific interest.

I have been monitoring developments closely and held a drought summit last month with the farmers, water companies and environmental groups, to hear first hand the impacts on different sectors and to agree actions that could be taken. The Environment Agency will report back later this month on the situation and potential impacts on water supplies, farmers and the environment. Natural England is also meeting conservation groups on 14 June and will report back to me on actions to reduce the impact on wildlife. A further meeting is taking place today with representatives of farming, water and energy companies and environmental groups to consider actions that can be taken in the short-term to make their water go further and to look at actions to build resilience in the future. I shall convene a further drought summit later this month to review progress and consider what further actions we may need to take.

We are working closely with farmers, growers and their organisations as they monitor the situation. Wherever possible, the Environment Agency is working with farmers to encourage voluntary restrictions on water use before imposing formal restrictions on spray irrigation. More widely, the agency has worked with water companies and water users to develop plans that minimise the risk of short-term restrictions on water use.

For those areas that have moved to drought status, the Environment Agency is working with water companies to remind people and businesses to use water wisely. Natural England has issued guidance to farmers and is ensuring that appropriate environmental stewardship derogations are made available to farmers in agri-environmental scheme agreements as a result of drought-related conditions.

Most water companies are reporting that they have sufficient reserves and do not predict the need for restrictions on use. Just one, Severn Trent, has informed its customers that restrictions may become necessary should the dry weather continue. Water companies have statutory drought plans that set out how they will manage the impacts of a drought. These plans include early triggers to bring all available water sources into supply before restrictions are imposed on the public water supply. Should there be a need to conserve water for the public supply then water companies may impose temporary restrictions on certain non-essential uses of water to help reduce the likelihood of more stringent demand restrictions that impact on customers and businesses.

Householders can get good advice on how to make best use of water from their water supplier, and from Waterwise (www.waterwise.org.uk). Water companies are increasing their engagement in this respect.

The "Natural Environment" White Paper, published on 7 June, announced our intention to reform the water abstraction management regime to provide clearer signals to drive investment decisions to meet water needs and protect ecosystems. The "Water" White Paper, due to be published in December, will provide further details.

I will continue to monitor the situation and will keep the House updated if there is any material change in the situation.

E. coli

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): The Secretary of State for Health informed the House on 7 June of how the Government are taking all possible measures to monitor the serious E. coli 0104 outbreak that is centred in Germany and to assess and deal with any associated risks should any arise for consumers in the UK. I will not repeat what he has said in relation to the background of the outbreak.

It is deeply regrettable that this outbreak has resulted in the loss of life. It has also had a disruptive economic impact on growers and others within the supply chain for fruit and vegetables across the EU, including our domestic industry.

At retail level, prices for domestically produced salad—lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet peppers and courgettes—have remained relatively stable, although demand has declined, with the result that more produce is being sent to the wholesale market, which is experiencing movement in prices. I welcome the support for UK producers shown by the big retailers who have in some cases increased their offering of UK salad produce, in response to consumer demand for our home crops.

One impact of the decision by the Russian Federation to impose a ban on EU fruit and vegetable produce is that surplus produce has been directed to alternative EU markets, including our own. The consequence has been to depress values in the wholesale market, with volumes down, although here again, I understand that prices for English produce are faring better than those for imported produce. But the situation continues to develop and the latest indications from our trade organisations are that the market has deteriorated.

The impacts of the overall situation are being felt across the EU and because of this, the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 7 June discussed the need for exceptional measures to address the market situation and to provide financial support for growers affected. Proposals were discussed by Ministers at Council level and considered by officials at the EU Fruit and Vegetables Management Committee but no package has yet been agreed for implementation. Discussions will continue on 14 June.

The proposals build upon existing measures that are available within the fruit and vegetable aspects of the common agricultural policy via its Single Common Market Organisation (sCMO) of agricultural markets. No brand new measures are proposed. The total budget proposed would be €210 million, which would come from the existing European Agriculture Guarantee Fund (Common Agricultural Policy) budget to cover tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce and also peppers and courgettes. No additional funding is proposed. The proposals cover the extension and relation of the rules covering market withdrawals. In the main this means that produce will go for destruction, because the perishable nature of fresh produce means that intervention is not a viable option. Compensation would be paid only in respect of the withdrawal of produce and it would not extend to compensation for loss of earnings nor to pay for the difference between current and normal expected market value. Details of the proposal are as follows:

> Separate maximum compensation rates at €/100kg would be established for tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, peppers and courgettes, to represent about 50% of the usual average June price for such produce.
>
> The measures would be open to all member states to implement.
>
> The allocated funding would be available on a first-come first-served basis—there are currently no plans for an allocation per member state.
>
> In general withdrawals of produce must be made via Producer Organisations (POs) recognised under the sCMO. There is already such provision through POs' existing funding programmes but the proposed new funding will be additional. However, under amended proposals, the Commission are considering an alternative route via the Paying Agency direct, which would be helpful for growers who are not members of a PO.
>
> The proposal is for a temporary measure, to apply retrospectively from 26 May to 30 June, or when the budget is exhausted—whichever is sooner.
>
> At a later stage, the Commission will consider whether a promotional campaign for fruit and vegetables could also be considered, to support the restoration of consumer confidence in the market.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will continue to maintain close contact with the Food Standards Agency and with industry organisations and is discussing with the Rural Payments Agency and other Government Departments how to implement the proposed measures.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Work Programme Launch

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): I am delighted to announce that the Department for Work and Pensions is launching the Work programme today. The Government's vision of a high-quality, personalised employment programme for those benefit claimants throughout Great Britain who need more intensive support is now a reality.

The Work and Pensions Select Committee report published last month was very positive about DWP's management of the procurement process despite the "very ambitious timescales" set. Thirty-eight of the 40 contracts have now been signed. The two remaining contracts are all on track to be signed—week commencing 13 June 2011.

Today, I will be personally visiting a provider in west London to meet their first participants and see first hand how they are starting to use the freedom we have given them to innovate and design personally and locally tailored support.

The Government will publish providers' minimum service offers to all claimants in due course. This will ensure that claimants are aware what they can expect, and that providers live up to what they have told us they will deliver. We will also be publishing the details of the local voluntary, public and private sector organisations that make up the prime providers' supply chains.

Unlike in previous employment programmes, the Government have adopted genuinely long-term goals in the design of the Work programme.

Providers will be in place for up to seven years, giving them time to invest in building strong relationships with local partners and to innovate to find what works, enabling them to deliver the best quality back to work support possible.

Claimants will join the programme for up to two years, so providers will have a real chance to address the most serious disadvantages some of our claimants face in the labour market.

Once claimants have found a job we will pay providers to help them keep it for up to 18 months for mainstream jobseekers, and up to 27 months for an employment and support allowance claimant moving from incapacity benefits.

I am confident we have given the Work programme every chance of making a real difference to long-term worklessness. We expect to see substantial indications of the success of the programme from spring 2013. A full independent evaluation has been commissioned for that year as the first customers complete their two years and I look forward to sharing the results with the House as soon as possible.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 13 June 2011

TREASURY

Financial Services Authority (Annual Report)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The annual report 2010-11 of the Financial Services Authority (FSA) has today been laid before Parliament.

The report forms a key part of the accountability mechanism for the Financial Services Authority under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA), and assesses the performance of the Financial Services Authority over the past 12 months against its statutory objectives.

HEALTH

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): The Health Council met on 6 June in Luxembourg. Andy Lebrecht, deputy permanent representative to the EU, represented the UK.

Council conclusions were adopted on:

The European pact for mental health and well-being: results and future action;

Successes and challenges of European childhood immunisation and the way forward;

Towards modern, responsive and sustainable health systems; and innovation in the medical device sector.

The Commission provided an update on:

Progress of the proposals on information to the general public on medicinal products;

The active and healthy ageing partnership; and

The forthcoming evaluation of the EU health programme and the EU health strategy.

The Commission provided an update on the recent E. coli outbreak and the actions being taken to control it. There was also a discussion on the public health dimension of migration from the middle east and north Africa.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animals in Scientific Procedures (Consultation on European Directive)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone): The Home Office is today publishing a consultation paper seeking views on the options for transposing European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. Directive 2010/63/EU will replace Directive 86/609/EEC on which current United Kingdom legislation—the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986—is based. In common with other member states, the UK must transpose the provisions of the new directive into legislation by 10 November 2012. The consultation paper invites views on the options for transposing the new directive and on the accompanying impact assessment.

The Government welcome the new directive which strengthens the protection of animals used in scientific procedures and promotes the development, validation, acceptance and implementation of methods and strategies that replace, reduce and refine the scientific use of animals (the three R's). It also sets down detailed rules to ensure harmonisation and the proper functioning of the internal market. These are intended to rectify variations in the implementation of Directive 86/609/EEC which have tended to create barriers to trade in products and substances developed using animals in research and testing.

The consultation paper seeks views on the detailed provisions of the directive with a view to informing the preparation of transposing legislation. The consultation closes on 5 September 2011. A copy of the consultation paper and related impact assessment will be placed in the House Library.

Changes to the Immigration Rules

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before the House a statement of changes in the immigration rules that will bring about the second of the changes to the student visa system, which the Home Secretary announced on 22 March, and were set out in detail in the statement of intent published on 31 March.

The changes will take effect on 4 July and will tighten the rules on the entitlements of students to work and bring dependants, will tighten the requirements around maintenance funds and require students to show academic progression to get a further visa. The new rules also introduce a streamlined application process for low-risk students.

I can also confirm that we are publishing the impact assessment for the changes to tier 4 on the UK Border Agency website, and I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the House Library.

The Home Secretary has previously announced that from the end of 2012 all tier 4 sponsors will need to have had a satisfactory inspection or audit by one of a number of specified bodies who are involved in the regulatory framework for educational standards in the UK. I am pleased to be able to inform the House that the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) have agreed in principle to extend their remits to carry out additional inspections to cover privately funded providers. Further information is available on the UK Border Agency website.

This statement of changes also includes changes to the tier 4 rules to extend the list of courses where an academic technology approval scheme (ATAS) clearance certificate is required from the counter-proliferation department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

We are also making some minor amendments to rules laid on 16 March on intra-company transfers and maintenance funds so they achieve the intended policy intention.

There are also minor changes to the immigration rules laid on 1 October 2010 in respect of the English language requirement for spouses and partners of British citizens and persons settled in the UK.

Lastly, the Government are also making new provisions in part 8 of the immigration rules to allow other dependent family members of refugees with limited leave in the United Kingdom to join them from abroad. Currently, only those who have indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom are able to sponsor their other dependent relatives from abroad and those refugees with limited leave must make their applications outside of the rules and these are considered at the Secretary of State's discretion. We want to ensure that refugees with limited leave have the same opportunity to sponsor their other dependent family members as those coming through the normal route and this will also include a requirement that they be able to maintain and accommodate them.

SCOTLAND

Scotland Bill

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Michael Moore): The Chancellor and I are today announcing changes to the Scotland Bill and accompanying package that will further strengthen Scottish devolution and provide greater financial responsibility to the Scottish Parliament.

The coalition Government's "programme for government" set out that the Government would implement the proposals of the Calman commission. The Scotland Bill currently progressing through Parliament delivers this key coalition commitment.

The Scotland Bill will introduce a new Scottish rate of income tax, fully devolve stamp duty land tax and landfill tax, introduce a new capital borrowing power and extend current borrowing powers.

When combined with the existing tax-raising powers of the Scottish Parliament, the Bill will provide Scottish Ministers with a total of £12 billion-worth of financial powers and it represents the largest ever transfer of financial power from Westminster to Scotland. Through taking on responsibility for raising the taxes required to fund the spending decisions they make, the Scottish Parliament will be more accountable to the Scottish people. Once the measures are fully implemented the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Ministers will have more powers, will be more accountable, and will be better equipped to respond to Scotland's needs within the United Kingdom.

Since the introduction of the Scotland Bill in November 2010, the Bill has been subject to detailed consideration in both the UK Parliament and the Scottish Parliament. The Bill has successfully passed through Committee stage in the House of Commons and in March 2011 the Scottish Parliament voted overwhelmingly in support of a legislative consent motion agreeing to the measures set out in the Bill, by a margin of 121 to 3.

The UK Government have considered carefully the recommendations made by the Scottish Affairs Committee in the UK Parliament, and the Scotland Bill Committee in the Scottish Parliament. They have also committed to listen carefully to any detailed proposals put forward by the Scottish Government.

Based on the evidence received so far, the Government continue to believe that the package set out in the Scotland Bill, and the supporting Command Paper, meets the objectives of strengthening Scottish devolution within the United Kingdom and in particular providing strong financial accountability to the Scottish Parliament. However, the UK Government have decided to make some amendments to the Bill and supporting package that ensure that Scottish Ministers have greater flexibility to exercise their new powers effectively.

Therefore, the Chancellor and I propose the following changes to the Scotland Bill and accompanying package:

> Bringing forward to 2011 pre-payments, a form of "cash advance", to allow work on the Forth replacement crossing to begin;
>
> Removing the requirement for Scottish Ministers to absorb the first £125 million of tax forecasting variation within their budget, giving Scottish Ministers more flexibility to decide how best to respond to any variations in tax receipts compared to forecasts;
>
> Allowing Scottish Ministers to make discretionary payments into the Scottish cash reserve for the next five years, up to an overall total of £125 million, to help manage any variation in Scottish income tax receipts compared to forecasts in the initial phase of the new system;
>
> Introducing a power in the Scotland Bill which will enable the Government to amend, in future, the way in which Scottish Ministers can borrow to include bond issuance, without the need for further primary legislation. The Government will conduct a review of the costs and benefits of bond issuance over other forms of borrowing, and will consider extending Scottish Ministers' powers where this does not undermine the overall UK fiscal position or have a negative impact on total UK borrowing.

In addition, a number of changes will be made to the non-financial sections of the package:

> Enabling Scottish Ministers to approve the appointments of MG Alba board members;
>
> Providing for reciprocal consultation between UK Ministers and Scottish Ministers when either makes changes to electoral administration that impact on their respective responsibilities;
>
> Devolving the power to make an order disqualifying persons from membership of the Scottish Parliament;
>
> Implementing the findings of the expert group appointed by the Advocate General to consider the working of the Scotland Act in relation to devolution issues concerning the Lord Advocate as head of the system of criminal prosecution in Scotland;
>
> Strengthening inter-governmental dialogue in areas of mutual interest in welfare.

The Government believe the Scotland Bill provides the right balance of additional powers for Scotland. But we will study any further proposals by the Scottish Government based on robust evidence on how these proposals would benefit both Scotland and the rest of the UK.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 14 June 2011

TREASURY

ECOFIN (20 June 2011)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Luxembourg on 20 June 2011. The following items are on the agenda:

Legislative proposals on economic governance

Given the Hungarian presidency's aim of reaching agreement on the economic governance legislative package before the end of June, they have scheduled an informal ECOFIN dinner for 14 June in Brussels, which the Financial Secretary will attend. Trialogues with the European Parliament (EP) are ongoing on an almost daily basis, and the presidency is keen to get Finance Ministers' support for an updated general approach on the six legislative proposals. Negotiations with the Parliament will then continue, with the aim of agreeing the final compromise package at the 20 June ECOFIN.

Greater economic stability within the euro area is firmly in the UK's interests, and the Government broadly support this legislation; it should be noted that the UK's partial opt-out from the fiscal frameworks directive remains protected. The EP is attempting to secure: a greater role in economic surveillance including through public debates and hearings with member states; a stronger role in setting the scoreboard of indicators for macro-economic imbalances; and to introduce reverse qualified majority voting more widely. It will be important to ensure that the presidency maintains a firm line in negotiations with the Parliament given that, under the treaty, the EP has a limited formal role in fiscal and macro-economic surveillance.

Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and the Council granting an EU guarantee to the European Investment Bank (EIB) against losses under loans and guarantees for projects outside the EU

The presidency will report back on trialogues with the European Parliament, and seek Council agreement to adopt a new EIB external lending mandate as part of the mandate's mid-term review. The Government will work to ensure that the EIB's external lending is allocated appropriately.

Directive on Deposit Guarantee Schemes

This directive is a revision of the 1994 EU rules on deposit guarantee schemes, in order to improve depositors' confidence and promote financial stability. The new rules are designed to ensure sound, effective deposit guarantee schemes across the EU and EEA. The Government broadly support the directive, and will seek to ensure that it meets its aims of improving depositor confidence and providing a level playing field for depositors without imposing unreasonable costs on the industry.

Regulation on over-the-counter derivatives, central counterparties and trade repositories (EMIR)

The Commission issued legislative proposals in September to implement G20 commitments on the regulation of derivatives markets, and the presidency will aim to agree a general approach at this ECOFIN. The Government welcome these measures to increase transparency and reduce systemic risk in derivatives markets, and believe that this must be done in an internationally consistent and non-discriminatory way, in line with the G20 commitments and with the agreement on the establishment of the European supervisory authorities last year.

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing technical requirements for credit transfers and direct debits in euros

The UK supports the proposed regulation, which will facilitate the creation of a single market for electronic payments in euros.

European Banking Authority stress testing

This item will be an orientation debate on how to communicate the results of the European Banking Authority (EBA) stress tests, which are due to be published in the first half of July. Finance Ministers are also likely to discuss how to link the results to the backstops measures put in place by member states to address potential vulnerabilities in their banking systems. The Government believe that it is important to increase confidence in the European banking system through the implementation of coherent and transparent measures to address any vulnerabilities. It is also important to demonstrate the EU's commitment to medium-term reforms, as agreed internationally, by implementing Basel III in full.

European Semester

ECOFIN will agree country-specific opinions and recommendations (CSRs) on member states' fiscal and structural reform policy, under the EU's stability and growth pact (SGP) and Europe 2020 strategy. Member states are expected to take these CSRs into account when preparing their budgets and structural reform plans for the year ahead. The European Commission's proposed recommendations to the UK are supportive of the Government's fiscal plans, and the Commission urges the Government to proceed as planned with implementing fiscal consolidation. Other recommendations focus on the housing market, tackling youth unemployment, addressing the proportion of people in jobless households, and improving access to finance for SMEs. The Government will negotiate the precise drafting of these recommendations in the lead-up to ECOFIN. The recommendations will then be formally adopted by the European Council on 24 June as Council recommendations.

Quality management for European statistics

Finance Ministers will agree conclusions on ensuring the quality of public finance statistics in the EU. The Government support the principles of this proposal, and will work to ensure that the approach to implementation allows proper usage of the relevant statutory bodies' existing responsibilities.

Code of Conduct (business taxation)

ECOFIN will agree conclusions on the work of the code of conduct group over the last six months. The code of conduct is an EU-level political agreement between member states to work co-operatively to identify and eliminate harmful business tax measures in the EU and prevent the introduction of new ones. The code group's report is a standing ECOFIN agenda item at the end of each presidency, and the conclusions follow standard wording.

IMF (Increase in Subscription)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): Yesterday, the Government laid the International Monetary Fund (Increase in Subscription) Order 2011 before the House of Commons in draft. Copies of resolution 66-2 of the board of governors of the fund, which relate to this order, have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business Rates (Ports)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): From day one, the coalition Government have been committed to finding a solution to the "ports tax"—the unfair backdated rates bills incurred by some businesses (including many located within ports) across England following alterations proposed in 2008.

This coalition Government recognised that the backdated "port taxes" threatened the viability of Britain's export industry, with many firms facing hefty retrospective bills that they could not reasonably have planned for, or expected, and which threatened the solvency of some businesses.

That is why, despite the financial situation that we inherited, we have honoured our commitment to find a permanent solution to the problem and are proud that our actions will protect jobs and support economic growth.

We have already taken the first sensible step of introducing a moratorium on the repayment of certain backdated liabilities, and, subject to parliamentary approval of the Localism Bill, and once the necessary legislation is in place, eligible businesses will finally be able to have this debt dealt with appropriately—by having it cancelled.

The regulations to be made under the Localism Bill will cancel the backdated business rates liabilities of those businesses that were hit with unexpected and significant backdated rates after their property was split from another property for rating purposes. The regulations will apply to all eligible businesses across England faced with a similar backdated rates liability and not just businesses within ports.

Today I am placing a copy of the draft guidance and regulations in the Library of the House before it is released to interested parties. The publication of this guidance note in draft form is intended to give authorities and interested parties the opportunity to make any comments or ask questions on the process, the draft regulations and the examples, to ensure that the final versions will enable local authorities to fully implement the cancellation policy.

Leasehold Value Limits

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): I have today published a consultation paper containing proposals for updating the property value limits which are used to determine whether certain rights are available to residential long leaseholders. These are rights for such leaseholders to remain in their properties as assured tenants when their lease comes to an end, to extend the lease of their leasehold house or to purchase the freehold of a leasehold house (enfranchise) on particular terms.

One qualifying condition for these rights is that the property should fall within a certain value limit. These limits were last updated in April 1990. We are now proposing that they should be updated again so that these rights are not taken away from residential long leaseholders through the effects of property price inflation.

This is part of our wider desire to ensure that an appropriate balance is maintained between the rights of freeholders and leaseholders.

The online consultation seeks views on the proposals and will run for 12 weeks until 12 September 2011. The Government would welcome responses from a wide range of organisations and individuals.

A copy of the consultation paper has been placed in the Library of the House.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Waste Review

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): I am today publishing the findings of the Government's review of waste policies in England 2011.

The review has looked at all aspects of waste policy and delivery in England to ensure that we are taking the necessary steps towards creating a "zero-waste" economy, where resources are fully valued, and nothing of value gets thrown away. I am grateful to all those who took their time to respond to our call for evidence, or with whom we have discussed ideas.

Ensuring that we manage our material resources and waste as sustainably as possible is central to protection of our natural environment and a range of related priorities including material security, energy policy, climate change, and creation of a green economy.

The waste review includes a range of commitments designed to move waste more quickly up the waste hierarchy, away from disposal in landfill, with waste prevention a priority, followed by reuse, recycling and recovery.

The review concludes that preventing waste wherever possible can deliver the best environmental and economic outcomes. The Government will work with business sectors and the waste and material resources industry to develop voluntary approaches to cutting waste and increase recycling. We will also consult on banning wood waste from landfill and assess whether further bans may be appropriate in the future.

In order to improve the service to householders and businesses we will:

> Encourage councils to sign a new recycling and waste services commitment, setting out the principles they will follow in delivering local waste services;
>
> Protect civil liberties by decriminalising trivial household bin offences, while ensuring that stronger powers exist to tackle those responsible for fly-tipping and serious waste crime;
>
> Support initiatives which reward and recognise people who do the right thing to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste;
>
> Support councils and the waste industry in improving the collection of waste from smaller businesses;
>
> Reduce the burden of regulation and enforcement on legitimate business, but target those who persistently break the law.

Alongside the waste review, I am also publishing an anaerobic digestion strategy. The coalition Government are committed to being the "Greenest Government ever" and achieving that will in part mean substantially increasing energy from waste through anaerobic digestion (AD).

This offers a local, environmentally sound option for waste management which helps us divert waste from landfill, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and produce renewable energy which could be used to power our homes and vehicles. Farmers and gardeners can also benefit from the fertiliser produced, returning valuable nutrients to the land.

There are many different technologies available that can process waste and each may have a role to play, given the variety of waste arising and local situations. AD is the technology on which we are focusing in the strategy and action plan but we are also looking at how other technologies can also contribute to providing renewable gas. We do recognise that there are significant barriers that must first be overcome. During the past six months, we have been working closely with industry to identify the key barriers to uptake and to agree an ambitious programme of work to help overcome them.

This strategy and action plan are the result of this work. Each action has a named lead organisation and all have committed to drive the work forward. Changes cannot be delivered overnight, and the action plan may well need to be modified by experience, but this plan is the first and key step to enabling a thriving AD industry to grow in England over the next few years, delivering new green jobs as well as new green energy.

The waste review and anaerobic digestion strategy are both available at www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/ and in the Libraries of both Houses.

HEALTH

NHS Future Forum

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): As I informed the House on 7 June, the listening and engagement in relation to the Health and Social Care Bill and related issues has been very successful. The NHS Future Forum has now reported to the Government.

I am today publishing a list of the key changes the Government intend to make as a result of the NHS Future Forum's report. Some, but not all, of these changes require amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill.

These changes follow the Government's decision on 6 April to take advantage of a natural break in the legislative process to pause, listen and reflect on the national health service modernisation plans and to make any necessary improvements to the Health and Social Care Bill. The NHS Future Forum, a group of 45 senior professionals from across health and social care, was established to help drive an intensive eight-week period of engagement, beginning on 6 April and ending on 31 May.

Members of the NHS Future Forum attended around 250 events and heard opinions on the Government's plans for modernisation from over 8,000 people, including some 250 stakeholder organisations. Following a period of reflection, the Future Forum yesterday published their report; a copy of this has already been placed in the Library.

The Future Forum confirmed that the principles underpinning our plans for modernisation are the right ones, but also set out where we could make improvements, for patients and the NHS.

The Government have accepted the core recommendations of the report from the NHS Future Forum and will now make improvements to their modernisation plans. A document listing these improvements has been placed in the Library and we will provide more detail on exactly how we plan to implement these changes, including amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill, shortly.

The fundamental principles of our plans remain the same as those we set out in our White Paper, "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS". The Government are committed to creating a modernised NHS that achieves among the best health care outcomes in the world. Our proposals are rooted in the principles of empowering, focusing on health care outcomes and quality, and giving front-line professionals more capacity to design and deliver services around the needs and expectations of patients.

The Government remain firmly committed to the ideals of the NHS—a comprehensive health service, funded from general taxation, based on need and not ability to pay.

I would like to give my thanks to all of the Future Forum's members and to its chair, Professor Steve Field, for their work, as well as those who contributed to the engagement exercise. I have asked the Future Forum to continue to advise on the way that our proposals are developed and put into practice.

In order to ensure that Parliament is given sufficient opportunity to scrutinise the Government's proposed changes, I can confirm that our intention is to recommit the relevant parts of the Health and Social Care Bill to a Public Bill Committee. Exact details will be announced in due course.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Sexual Offences Act 2003

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone): The Home Office is today introducing a proposal for a draft remedial order, The Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Remedial) Order 2011, to rectify the legislative incompatibility identified by the Supreme Court in the case of R (on the application of F and Angus Aubrey Thompson) *v* Secretary of State for the Home Department [2010] UKSC 17. In this case, the Supreme Court made a declaration of incompatibility under section 4 of the Human Rights Act 1998 in respect of notification requirements for an indefinite period under section 82(1) of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. We are also launching today a targeted eight-week consultation on four key proposals to strengthen the existing notification requirements for sex offenders and further enhance our ability to manage registered sex offenders in the community: "Reforming the Notification Requirements of Registered Sex Offenders (Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003): A Targeted Consultation".

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Remedial) Order 2011 will give offenders a right to seek a review of their indefinite notification requirements once they have completed a fixed period of time subject to those requirements (15 years from the point of first notification following release from custody for adults and 8 years for juveniles). The review will be carried out by the police and will take into account a range of factors, including any information provided from agencies which operate within the multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) framework. It is our view that these measures provide a proportionate response to the Supreme Court ruling, ensuring that there is a robust and individual assessment of risk before an offender is considered for removal from the notification requirements. Sex offenders who continue to pose a risk will remain on the register and will do so for life, if necessary.

Protecting the public is a priority and to this end, the Home Office continues to engage with public protection agencies to ensure that the risk posed to the public by sexual offenders is managed effectively. The consultation launched today by the Home Office seeks views on four key proposals for widening the type of notification requirements which can be imposed on sex offenders. These proposals include requiring an offender, subject to the notification requirements under section 82 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, to: notify the police of all foreign travel (including travel outside of the UK of less than three days); notify weekly where they are registered as having "no fixed abode" (i.e. where a registered sex offender has no sole or main residence and instead must notify the police of the place where he can regularly be found); notify where they are living in a household with a child under the age of 18; notify passport, bank account and credit card details and to provide identification at each notification to tighten the rules so that sex offenders can no longer seek to avoid being on the register when they change their name (including by deed poll). Following the outcome of the consultation, the Home Office will seek to implement these amendments by December 2011.

The final impact assessment for these proposals can be found on the Home Office website.

JUSTICE

Coroner Reform

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): Further to the ministerial statements on 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 37WS and 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 38WS, I am today announcing the detail of our plans for coroner reform without proceeding with the Office of the Chief Coroner. This statement sets out the functions which the Government propose to transfer from the Office of Chief Coroner to the Lord Chancellor or Lord Chief Justice. It also sets out proposals for a ministerial board to oversee the non-judicial aspects of the service provided in England and Wales.

It is my intention that the Office of Chief Coroner be listed in schedule 5—Power to modify or transfer functions: bodies and offices of the Public Bodies Bill which will allow for the transfer of certain of the chief coroner's statutory functions without the abolition of the Office of Chief Coroner. This takes into account concerns expressed by stakeholders and Members of another place about the abolition of the office. The transfer of functions is, of course, subject to the outcome of the progress of the Bill through Parliament and a subsequent order to transfer functions made under the Act.

Reallocation of the Statutory Functions of the Chief Coroner

The table below details those statutory functions of the chief coroner, as set out in the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, which the Government propose to transfer to either the Lord Chief Justice or the Lord Chancellor. Where a function is not to be transferred from the chief coroner, this is because it is not possible to implement them in a cost-neutral manner as required in the current economic climate.

Section	*Description of Statutory Function of Chief Coroner*	*Transfer of Function*
1,2,3	Chief coroner to direct a coroner to conduct an investigation.	Lord Chief Justice
12 & 13	Chief coroner to notify Lord Advocate that an investigation should take place under the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiry Act 1976. Chief coroner to direct a coroner to conduct an investigation in England or Wales where the body is brought into Scotland.	Lord Chief Justice
14	Chief coroner to designate medical practitioners for the purpose of performing post mortems.	Lord Chancellor
16	Senior coroner conducting an investigation which is not completed within one year to notify the chief coroner of that fact and notify the chief coroner of the date on which the investigation is completed. Chief coroner to keep a register of notifications given under this section.	Lord Chancellor: function limited to collation of reports and keeping of the register.
17	The chief coroner must— Monitor investigations into service deaths. Secure that coroners conducting such investigations are suitably trained to do so.	Provision not to be implemented: training to be dealt with under section 37 (see below)

Section	*Description of Statutory Function of Chief Coroner*	*Transfer of Function*
18	Lord Chancellor to consult the chief coroner before making regulations relating to medical practitioner notifications	Lord Chief Justice to be consulted in lieu of the chief coroner
36	Chief coroner to report to the Lord Chancellor each year. Coroners to report action to prevent other deaths to the chief coroner.	Requirement for an annual report to be submitted to the Lord Chancellor not to be implemented. Reports from coroners on action to prevent other deaths to be submitted to the Lord Chancellor in lieu of the chief coroner.
37	Chief coroner to make regulations on training.	Lord Chief Justice
40	Chief coroner to be responsible for a new appeals system.	Not to be implemented
41	Investigation to be conducted by the chief coroner, Coroner for Treasure, judge, former judge or former coroner. Chief coroner to request that the Lord Chief Justice appoint a judge or former judge so to act.	Lord Chancellor to request the Lord Chief Justice to appoint a judge.
42	Lord Chancellor to issue guidance on the way in which the coroner's system is to operate in respect of interested persons following consultation with the chief coroner.	Lord Chief Justice to be consulted in lieu of the chief coroner.

The proposed reallocation of functions has been agreed with the Lord Chief Justice. In practice it is likely that the Lord Chief Justice will delegate the exercise of these functions to another judge. As the functions to be transferred are limited, and the Office of Chief Coroner not filled, neither the judge nor any other individual will be responsible for the leadership, culture or behaviour of coroners. As now, complaints about a coroner's personal conduct should be made to the Office for Judicial Complaints; all complaints about the administration of the coroner service or the conduct of coroners' officers should be raised with the relevant coroner or the local authority (if it relates to the service provided).

Proposals for oversight of the non-judicial aspects of the service provided by coroners and how we achieve, maintain and monitor changes to those services in the absence of a chief coroner are set out below.

Non-statutory Reform

Since the parliamentary debate on abolition of the chief coroner during Lords Committee stage of the Public Bodies Bill on 14 December 2010, colleagues and I have had positive discussions with MPs, peers and civil society groups about how best to ensure oversight of the non-judicial services provided by coroners in the absence of a chief coroner. This is necessary because it is not possible to transfer these non-statutory functions formally through the Public Bodies Bill.

These discussions have resulted in a proposal for a ministerial board which would be focused on matters of policy, the standards of service and other administrative aspects of the delivery of the coroner service which are non-judicial in nature. The board would be responsible for advising the Lord Chancellor on his statutory duties and on the setting of priorities for action with regards to policy on coroners at a national level, where these do not impact on judicial independence or judicial matters. It would be advised and supported by a Bereaved Organisations Committee, which would be independently chaired, and represented on the ministerial board. The committee would have a particular remit in monitoring the non-judicial "National Charter for the Coroner Service" which we published for consultation on 19 May 2011.

The ministerial board would be able to look at specific issues that may exist and consider whether there may be appropriate action to address these. In addition, the board would consider national statistics gathered from the coroner service in England and Wales to support the action plan for reform. The routine quarterly publication of progress on inquests of service personnel killed in operations and exercises overseas provides a model for transparency.

This proposal enables representatives of those who use and are affected by the coroner service to give direct feedback to Ministers on the overall administrative standards of service that coroners provide. The terms of reference for the ministerial board will reflect the judicial independence of coroners; the board will have no remit to look at those judicial services delivered by coroners.

Copies of the "Reallocation of Statutory Functions of the chief coroner" table have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, in the Vote Office and in the Printed Paper Office. Copies of the consultation on the national charter were placed there on 19 May.

TRANSPORT

EU Transport Council

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): I will attend the second Transport Council of the Hungarian presidency which will take place in Luxembourg on 16 June.

The Council will be asked to reach a general approach on a directive which recasts the 2001 first rail package. The 2001 legislation set the initial framework for a single European rail market. The proposal aims to address the fact that the first railway package has not achieved its declared objective of market opening through a number of proposals to improve the transparency of rail market access conditions and access to rail-related services.

Although we support the Commission's overall aim of clarifying and strengthening the regulatory framework for rail access and recognise the need for some further liberalisation in continental Europe, we have concerns about the investment disincentives and the cost impacts of some of the proposals on the UK. We have negotiated changes which align the text more closely with the arrangements which prevail in the UK, while preserving the proposals for liberalisation in continental Europe. However, there is little in the package which gives the UK any added value over the existing first railway package directive.

The Council will also be asked to reach a general approach on the draft amending regulation 1406/2002, which established the European Maritime Safety Agency. The proposed amendment, while maintaining the agency's present objectives, gives it several new, largely technical, tasks. While we recognise the importance of the additional tasks, we are opposed to any increase in the budget, unless it is financed through reprioritisation of funds from other areas of the EU budget.

There will be a policy debate on the European Commission's recent White Paper, "Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area—Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system". The broad thrust of the White Paper is in line with the UK's goal of a transport system that supports economic growth while delivering CO_2 reductions. The Council debate will centre on a number of questions put by the presidency. Our position includes a clear request to the Commission that detailed initiatives arising from this general policy framework are feasible and realistic, avoid excessive regulatory burdens on business, and respect the principle of subsidiarity.

The Council will be asked to adopt conclusions on a recent Commission communication, "The way ahead towards integrated and competitive EU inland waterway transport". The conclusions are acceptable to the UK.

The Council will be asked to adopt a decision on the signing and conclusion of an agreement with the intergovernmental organisation for international carriage by rail on the EU accession to the convention concerning international carriage by rail (COTIF) of 9 May 1980, as amended by the Vilnius protocol of 3 June 1999. The UK can support adoption of the decision.

The Council will be asked to adopt two decisions in the area of aviation external relations.

The first is a decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations with Moldova on a comprehensive air transport agreement. A comprehensive air transport agreement will result in the integration of the Moldovan aviation market into the single European market through the convergence of EU aviation regulations, technical assistance and market opening. I will support the decision authorising the opening of negotiations.

The second decision is on the signature of an air transport agreement which has been negotiated with Brazil. This agreement will significantly liberalise the market in air services between the EU and Brazil, providing new opportunities for the aviation industry. I will support the decision and sign the agreement.

Among AOB items, the Commission will be reporting on progress in work on air cargo security. As I did at the March Council, I will reiterate the importance of moving forward quickly with this work.

Also under AOB, the Commission will report on the follow-up to the volcanic ash crisis of 2010, looking at the wider scope of crisis management and EU methodology and on recent developments in implementing the Single European Sky.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 15 June 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Abolition of Regional Development Agencies (Public Bodies Bill)

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Mark Prisk): The reform of the delivery of economic development in England was one of the key commitments in the coalition agreement, and the Government have given a public commitment that the eight regional development agencies (excluding London which is being dealt with separately) will cease activities by March 2012, pending final abolition, which is subject to the passage of the Public Bodies Bill.

The closure programme is now well advanced, including substantial work to scale back the expenditure of the RDAs, in line with the spending review settlement which provided funds for legal commitments and closure costs only, representing about 18% of the amounts spent in the four years to March 2011. On the current timetable, by autumn 2011 there will be a skeleton level of staff left in each RDA and RDA activity will reduce significantly, well before March 2012.

While a number of RDA activities will cease completely, certain functions undertaken by RDAs will transfer elsewhere. Transfer of staff delivering the UK Trade & Investment foreign direct investment service to a new national contractor, PA Consulting, was completed at the beginning of May, and the transfer of about 300 staff delivering European regional development fund projects, and the rural development programme for England to the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs respectively scheduled for 1 July. The plans for the transfer of certain RDA functions were set out in the White Paper "Local growth: realising every place's potential" (Cm 7961), published on 28 October 2010. There has been significant engagement with stakeholders about the plans to cease RDA activities.

As drafted, the Public Bodies Bill provides powers for Ministers to make changes to public bodies via secondary legislation, following a consultation process and appropriate parliamentary procedure. As the closure (and transfer) programme for RDAs is now well advanced, the Government have concluded that it would not be appropriate for the RDAs to be subject to this process. Delaying this programme would not be beneficial for the economy or the future of economic development and would risk jeopardising the more cost-effective delivery of economic development provision we are putting in place.

The Government have therefore decided to bring forward an amendment to the Bill, which will provide for the abolition of the RDAs on the face of the Bill and will therefore exempt RDA abolition from the order-making process in the Bill. The necessary amendments are expected to be tabled before Committee stage in the House of Commons.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Sudan

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): In January this year, the people of south Sudan voted in a referendum in favour of secession from the Republic of Sudan, as was their right under the terms of the comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) signed between the Government of the Republic of Sudan (GoS) and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in 2005. The south plans to secede on 9 July. Since the referendum, progress against the remaining areas of the comprehensive peace agreement, which will expire on 9 July, has been insufficient. There are also a number of "post CPA issues" on which agreement needs to be reached urgently. The violence witnessed in recent weeks in Abyei and southern Kordofan regions is cause for great concern and risks prejudicing all that has been achieved since the CPA was signed in 2005.

On 19 May, Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces attacked an UNMIS convoy escorting Sudanese armed forces (SAF) elements of a joint integrated unit. In a disproportionate response, Sudanese armed forces took control of the area in and around Abyei town on 21 May. I immediately condemned this action. Since then, the lawlessness and violence has continued, with approximately 100,000 civilians displaced internally. When I met Foreign Minister Karti in London on 6 June, I made clear that there must be a durable and peaceful resolution to the status of Abyei and that Sudanese armed forces must withdraw from the region. I encouraged the Foreign Minister to accept offers of a UN-mandated third-party peacekeeping force in Abyei so that Sudanese forces can withdraw quickly and those who have been displaced can return to their homes. I received assurances that the Government of Sudan intended to withdraw their forces.

On 6 June, fighting broke out between SPLA and SAF in Kadugli, the state capital of south Kordofan. Since then we have seen a worrying escalation of violence, including aerial bombardments and reports of ethnically motivated assassinations and attacks on individuals. Such actions are wholly unacceptable and I condemn them. The violence has already displaced some 60,000 civilians. I am greatly concerned by the lack of access being granted to humanitarian agencies and I call on all forces in the state immediately to grant access for humanitarian agencies to help the people most affected by this violence. I remind the Government of Sudan of their responsibility to protect civilians. Reports of human rights violations should also be fully investigated.

These conflicts endanger the hard-won progress that has been achieved through the comprehensive peace agreement. This week the AU high-level implementation panel, chaired by former President Mbeki, is facilitating talks in Addis Ababa between the Governments of Sudan and south Sudan, aimed at urgently finding a peaceful solution to the situations in Abyei and south Kordofan. I discussed the prospects for these talks with

President Mbeki on 9 June and assured him of our support for his and his team's efforts. Today, I again urge all parties involved in those talks quickly to agree a solution to the current crisis and to bring to an end the violence that has already affected so many lives.

The UK special envoy for Sudan, Michael Ryder, travelled to Addis Ababa to support the AU talks, working closely with his US counterpart. The UK ambassador in Khartoum and consul-general in Juba are speaking regularly to representatives of the Government of Sudan and south Sudan to seek a way out of this crisis, as well as leading the co-ordination between our international partners locally to press both parties to reach a solution. We have been public and loud in our condemnations. The British defence attaché based in Khartoum has been supporting the military talks on this issue and representatives from the Department for International Development are working closely with their UN colleagues on the humanitarian response. The UK funded the pre-positioning of supplies which allowed the UN promptly to start the humanitarian response in southern Kordofan. We are working hard with Security Council partners to ensure the UN remains able to protect civilians and provide humanitarian support.

The UK has pledged £560 million over the next four years to support humanitarian and development projects in Sudan. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development visited Sudan last month, along with his counterparts from the US and Norway, to meet with key partners in both north and south Sudan and reiterate UK support. The UK remains committed to seeing two peaceful, stable and economically viable states after 9 July and we will remain engaged until a lasting and sustainable peace is achieved.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 16 June 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing and Local Government (Unpublished Research Reports)

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): Today the Government are publishing a further group of reports presenting the findings from research projects commissioned by the previous Administration. There is a significant backlog of unpublished reports that were produced by the previous Government and over the next few months we will be publishing further reports in groups, themed on particular topics.

The reports and findings are of general policy interest, but do not relate to forthcoming policy announcements. We are publishing these documents in the interests of transparency and as part of our freedom of information commitment to publish the results of all commissioned research. For transparency, all concluded research work is being published, though some reports may not be as complete or in the format that the Department for Communities and Local Government would normally require.

The four reports published below represent the findings from four DCLG research projects commissioned at a total cost to taxpayers of £161,796 and one report from the Homes and Communities Agency commissioned at a cost of £63,600. These findings cover the topics of housing and local government.

Housing reports

(i) Domestic violence—Assistance for households without dependent children.

This study explored the type of assistance provided by local authorities and also other specialist agencies. This report was commissioned in November 2008 at a cost of £70,000.

(ii) Cumulative impacts of regulations on house builders and landowners.

This report provides expert advice on the returns expected from landowners when selling land for housing and the factors that drive this. This report was commissioned in June 2008 at a cost of £3,000.

Homes and Communities Agency report

(iii) New affordable homes: What for whom and where have registered providers been building between 1989 and 2009.

This report analysed available data and evidence to provide an assessment on how the provision and investment of affordable housing by registered providers has changed over the last 20 years (1989-2009) with more detailed case study work in five local authorities. This report was commissioned in February 2010 and cost £63,600.

Local government reports

(iv) Long-term evaluation of local area agreements and local strategic partnerships: Final report.

The report considers the role of local strategic partnerships and the impact of local area agreements, from the point of view of partnership working, efficiency and service improvement. The report was commissioned in 2007 at a cost of £47,898.

(v) Evaluation of inspiring communities: scoping report including the theory of change and outcomes framework.

This is a scoping report which includes the theories of change for the various projects—why and how the initiatives should work—and the outcomes framework, showing how success should be measured. The report was commissioned in 2009 at a cost of £40,898.

At a time when public budgets must be reduced, the new Government want to ensure their research delivers best possible value for money for the taxpayer and that sums expended are reasonable in relation to the public policy benefits obtained. My Department has rigorous scrutiny and challenge processes for commissioned research.

New projects will continue to be scrutinised to ensure the methodology is sound and that all options for funding are explored at an early stage. This includes using existing work from other organisations, joint funding projects with other Departments or organisations and taking work forward in-house.

These reports and findings are of general policy interest, but do not relate to forthcoming policy announcements and are not a reflection of the current Government's policies and priorities. DCLG is publishing these reports in the interests of transparency.

Copies of these reports are available on the DCLG website. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): With effect from 16 June 2011, the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) will cease to have the status of executive agency of the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

The SPVA was formed in April 2007 from the merger of the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency (AFPAA) and the Veterans Agency (VA). The purpose of the merger was to provide both serving and retired members of the armed forces and their beneficiaries with a single point of contact for all personnel administration matters, and this has been achieved.

The SPVA will become part of the new Defence Business Services (DBS) in 2013. The SPVA will relinquish its agency status from 16 June 2011 as this is not considered critical to delivering its business, but it will retain its name until it is incorporated into DBS to avoid the unnecessary expenditure associated with re-branding. This change in operating status will have no impact on SPVA's customers and will achieve staff reductions in the support functions of £319,000 per annum, starting in late financial year 2011-12. Wider savings to Government are also anticipated, in particular the costs incurred in auditing the agency's annual report and accounts.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Diamond Jubilee Civic Honours Competitions

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): On 1 December 2010 I announced the launch of the diamond jubilee civic honours competitions for the grant of city status and of lord mayoralty (or, in

Scotland, lord provostship) to mark Her Majesty the Queen's diamond jubilee in 2012. The closing date for entries was 27 May 2011.

I am pleased to announce that 26 applications for city status and 12 for lord mayoralties have been received. This is a magnificent response to the competition and it is clear an impressive amount of effort has gone into all the applications that have been submitted.

The full list of applicants for city status is:

Bolton
Bournemouth
Chelmsford
Colchester
Coleraine
Corby
Craigavon
Croydon
Doncaster
Dorchester
Dudley
Dumfries
Gateshead
Goole
Luton
Medway
Middlesbrough
Milton Keynes
Perth
Reading
Southend
St Asaph
St Austell
Stockport
Tower Hamlets
Wrexham

The cities applying for a lord mayoralty are:

Armagh
Cambridge
Derby
Gloucester
Lancaster
Newport (Gwent)
Peterborough
Salford
Southampton
St Albans
Sunderland
Wakefield

The process of assessing the entries will begin shortly. Careful consideration will be given to all applications, after which Ministers will formally provide their advice to Her Majesty, as such honours are awarded under the royal prerogative. The results are expected to be announced early in 2012.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Post-Energy Council (Luxembourg 10 June)

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): Andy Lebrecht, Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU, represented the UK at the Council.

The Council began with a report by the Commission on the progress of the regulation on energy market integrity and transparency (REMIT). The Commission noted the importance of the issue for the development of the internal energy market and reported that informal trilogues with the European Parliament would begin on 16 June with the aim of reaching a First Reading agreement.

The Council then agreed conclusions on the energy efficiency action plan and the Commission outlined the next steps on energy efficiency, including the publication of a draft energy efficiency directive in June. There were a number of interventions by member states, noting the importance of energy efficiency.

The presidency presented a summary of the informal Energy Council discussion in Hungary on the forthcoming 2050 energy road map. The Commission explained that work would continue over the summer on scenarios for the road map and highlighted the challenges of meeting the 80% to 95% emissions reductions targets and the importance of member states' decisions on energy mix. The UK noted the importance of the road map setting out potential scenarios to enable each member state to make such decisions. In response to requests from several member states, the Commission said that it would carry out a study for the autumn on the impacts on EU markets of national decisions about energy mix.

The Commission noted the agreement reached by ENSREG on the content of nuclear safety tests and that the tests had begun. The UK emphasised that nuclear security should not be included in the stress tests, being a matter of national security

Poland briefly outlined its plans for its presidency. Key issues will be security of supply and international co-operation, offshore drilling and infrastructure.

The Commission reported on a number of international energy relations issues, including the need for rapid progress over the southern corridor. Ministers discussed the issue of financing for energy infrastructure over lunch.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environment Council (21 June 2011)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and I will represent the UK at the Environment Council in Luxembourg on 21 June.

At this Council, Ministers will take note of progress reports relating to the proposal for a directive on control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances

("Seveso III") and to the proposal for a regulation regarding the possibility for member states to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in their territory.

The presidency will also seek the adoption of Council conclusions on the protection of water resources and integrated sustainable water management in the European Union and beyond, a road map for moving to a competitive low-carbon economy in 2050 and the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020.

The lunch discussion will be on climate change and the status of international negotiations.

The following topics will be covered under "any other business":

Information from the Commission on aviation/emissions trading scheme implementation;

Information from the Commission on the Conference on the Implementation of the EU Environmental Law (Brussels, 15 June 2011);

Information from the Commission on CSD 19 conclusions and possible way forward to Rio+20;

Information from Romanian delegation on the meeting of Environmental Ministers from the Black Sea Economic Co-operation countries (Bucharest, 31 May 2011) ;

Information from the Dutch delegation on the risks associated with nanomaterials;

Information from the French delegation on the management of cormorants;

Information from the Lithuanian delegation on nuclear installations planned in the EU neighbourhood (Kaliningrad region and Belarus);

Information from the Austrian delegation on new challenges in the light of the Fukushima accident—reflections of countries without nuclear power (Vienna, 25 May 2011);

Information from the Swedish delegation on global, regional and bilateral action on short-lived climate forcers;

Information from the Danish delegation on the use of industrial gas credits under the effort sharing decision;

Information from the presidency and Commission on the outcome of the first meeting of the Open-Ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (Montreal, 5- 10 June 2011);

Information from the Slovak delegation on the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Bratislava, May 25-27, 2011) ; and

Presentation by the Polish delegation on the work programme of the incoming presidency.

Food and Catering Services (Government Buying Standards)

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): I am pleased to announce that the "Government Buying Standards for Food and Catering Services" has today been published. There are Government buying standards for commonly procured goods and services in 10 major product groups, but this has not previously included food and catering.

These are mandatory on central Government and we will encourage the rest of the public sector to use them. We want to support and develop a profitable and competitive food chain and to ensure a secure, environmentally sustainable and healthy supply of food. Where Government lay down standards of production, they should ensure that their own purchases meet these standards.

Therefore, these standards will set an example and provide a clear, credible and workable example for the wider public sector to follow. This is something that has not been done before and has been cited as one of the key barriers to progress in driving up standards of public sector food. In particular, the standards deliver an undertaking for 100% sustainably sourced fish.

DEFRA and Department of Health economists conducted an economic impact assessment on proposals, which we then opened up for review by a wide range of stakeholders ranging from catering and food suppliers, public procurement practitioners and Government Departments to sustainability NGOs and consumer groups. More than 50 responses were received.

In response to the review, some changes were made to the criteria, which were then agreed across Government.

The standards that have been agreed cover:

Sustainably sourced fish.

Animal welfare.

UK or equivalent production standards where this does not increase overall costs.

Higher environmental standards, such as organic or Integrated Production (for example LEAF, or Linking Environment And Farming) for a proportion of food.

Seasonal produce.

Fairly traded produce.

Energy and waste management.

Nutrition.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Control Powers (11 March - 10 June)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

The future of the control order regime

On 23 May 2011, the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Bill was introduced in the House of Commons. A copy of the Bill can be found on Parliament's website. The home page for the Bill is:

http://services.parliament.uk//bills/2010-11/terrorismpreventionandinvestigationmeasures.html

The Bill makes provision for the abolition of control orders and their replacement with a new, less intrusive and more focused regime. The control order system will continue to operate until its replacement is in force.

The exercise of the control order powers in the last quarter

As explained in previous quarterly statements, control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned and are based on the terrorism-related risk that individual poses. Each control order is kept under regular review to ensure that the obligations remain necessary and proportionate. The Home Office continues to hold control order review groups (CORGs) every quarter, with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular and formal review and to facilitate a review of appropriate exit strategies. During the reporting period, three CORGs were held in relation to the orders in force at the time. Other meetings were held on an ad hoc basis as specific issues arose.

During the period 11 March 2011 to 10 June 2011, one new non-derogating control order was made, with the permission of the court, and served. One non-derogating control order which was made, with the permission of the court, during a previous quarter was served during this quarter. A control order already in force at the beginning of this reporting period was revoked on the direction of the court and a new order made and served in its place. Two control orders have been renewed in accordance with section 2(6) of the 2005 Act in this reporting period.

In total, as of 10 June, there were 12 control orders in force, all of which were in respect of British citizens. All of these control orders were non-derogating. Three individuals subject to a control order were living in the metropolitan police district; the remaining individuals were living in other police force areas.

One set of criminal proceedings for breach of a control order was concluded during this reporting period following a CPS decision that prosecution was no longer in the public interest in the light of the revocation of the control order to which they were related.

During this reporting period, 60 modifications of control order obligations were made. Twenty-five requests to modify control order obligations were refused.

Section 10(1) of the 2005 Act provides a right of appeal against a decision by the Secretary of State to renew a non-derogating control order or to modify an obligation imposed by a non-derogating control order without consent. Three appeals have been lodged with the High Court during this reporting period under section 10(1) of the 2005 Act. A right of appeal is also provided by section 10(3) of the 2005 Act against a decision by the Secretary of State to refuse a request by a controlled person to revoke their order or to modify any obligation under their order. During this reporting period two appeals were lodged with the High Court under section 10(3) of the 2005 Act.

On 5 April 2011 a judgment was handed down by the Court of Appeal in *BM v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2011] EWCA CIV 366*, in relation to the appeal brought by BM against the decision of the High Court to uphold his control order. The Court of Appeal allowed BM's appeal. It found that the High Court did not consider the correct legal test at the initial review of the control order because it only considered whether the control order was necessary at the date of the hearing and not at the date it was made. It further found that, on the basis of the evidence before it, the control order was flawed from the outset. The Court of Appeal made clear that it only considered the open evidence against BM in reaching this decision. The judgment recognised that the Secretary of State argued that the control order was justified on the totality of the evidence, including closed evidence that was not before them, but found that they should consider only the open evidence that was before them so as to avoid delaying the outcome of this case. The Court of Appeal directed that the control order should be revoked 48 hours after hand-down with retrospective effect from the date on which it was made.

On 20 May 2011 a judgment was handed down by the High Court in *CD v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2011]EWHC 1273(admin)* in relation to the appeal brought by CD under section 10(3) of the 2005 Act against the decision to refuse to remove an obligation that would require him to relocate away from his previous area of residence. The judge dismissed the appeal, concluding that the relocation obligation was a necessary and proportionate measure to protect the public from the risk of what is an immediate and real risk of a terrorist related attack. The judge also found that the Secretary of State should contribute to the travel costs of CD's family. He made clear that the finding in this case does not mean that a contribution to travel costs should be made in every case of relocation.

Most full judgments are available at: http://www.bailii.org.

Justice and Home Affairs (Post-Council Statement)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council was held on 9 and 10 June in Luxembourg. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice, the Scottish Cabinet Secretary of Justice, Kenny MacAskill MSP, and I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom, the following issues were discussed at the Council:

(The Council began in Mixed Committee with Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland (non-EU Schengen states). The presidency reported that preparations for the VIS go-live date of October 2011 were on track. The Commission underlined the importance of member states notifying their preparedness by the end of July to allow time for the necessary legal and technical preparations.

The update on the Commission-led project to implement the central element of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) confirmed that implementation was still on track.

The Council agreed the draft regulation on creating an IT agency. This will now be considered by the European Parliament to establish whether it can be the basis for a first reading deal.

In advance of the June European Council, Ministers held a wide-ranging debate on borders, asylum and migration, adopting conclusions reacting to three Commission communications on immigration issued last month. The UK highlighted that a stable, secure and prosperous future for the region required effective management of migration, mobility and security. Migration should be considered in assessing reform in the European neighbourhood. The global approach to migration provided the tools and principles for partnerships on migration and member state involvement was vital. Dialogue had to be balanced and transparent. On asylum, the UK raised concerns about the emphasis on legislative solutions: the problem was not a lack of rules, but implementation of the existing ones. While agreeing to the draft conclusions, the UK stated that they did not believe that the common European asylum system was in the UK's national interest and any further opt-in decision would be taken on a case-by-case basis, taking account of national interests. The UK opposed suspension of the Dublin arrangements for the return of asylum seekers to their first port of entry into the EU and relocation or burden-sharing options but supported practical co-operation. Finally, the UK said a comprehensive approach to migration had to address the issue of free movement. Public support could not be undermined by fraud and abuse of residence rights and associated benefits. The UK and Frontex figures showed sham marriage was on the rise, with evidence of links to organised crime. The balance between safeguarding rights and protecting citizens was vital. The UK said that this issue should be discussed at a future meeting to meet the Stockholm programme commitments in this area.

The Commission presented proposals to amend Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 which lists third country nationals who must possess visas to cross the external borders of the Schengen area and those exempt from this requirement. The Commission's amendments also include the introduction of a suspension mechanism to allow for the temporary reintroduction of visa requirements in an emergency situation. It would apply to all current and future countries granted Schengen visa waiver (not just the western Balkans). The Commission stressed that it would be applied only in very exceptional cases and as a last resort. The UK does not participate.

Next the Council discussed elements of amending the Frontex regulation. The Commission underlined the importance of reaching agreement with the European Parliament by the June European Council. Frontex agreed on the need for urgency; the agency was at a critical point and could not continue without a revised regulation. There was general agreement on balancing member state responsibilities for border control with the obligation of others to provide resources to support them. The Commission stated that the respect of fundamental rights was of the highest political importance to both the European Parliament and the Commission; the Council would have to agree to the independent monitoring of return operations. Member states disagreed on another name for the proposed "European Border Guard System". Discussions on the regulation will continue at COREPER ahead of a further trialogue with the European Parliament next week.

The presidency presented Council conclusions confirming that Bulgaria and Romania had successfully completed the Schengen evaluation process; the Council will discuss accession in September.

Finally the Commission presented the main findings from the first six months of monitoring the impact of granting visa liberalisation to the western Balkans. Even though the large majority of travellers are bona fide, there had been a high number of unfounded asylum applications in certain member states relating to minority populations (especially Roma). The Commission underlined that the western Balkan countries were starting to address these problems. A number of follow-up measures would now be necessary, including targeted information campaigns, increased use of border controls and entry bans, and targeted assistance to minority populations.

Following Mixed Committee, Interior Ministers held a lunchtime discussion on asylum where the Commission presented revised proposals to amend the procedures and reception conditions directives. The upcoming Polish presidency said all their efforts would be focused on agreeing at least a core of a common system by 2012. The UK reiterated that a common asylum system would not be in the UK's national interest.

After lunch, the Council resumed with the Commission giving a short update on three legal migration directives: seasonal workers, intra-corporate transferees and the single permit for residence and work on which they hoped the electronic storage of data would allow a way forward. The UK is not participating in these measures.

Next the Council agreed conclusions on establishing priorities in the fight against organised crime over the next two years.

The Commission presented its air cargo security progress report on the implementation of the EU action plan of 30 November 2011. Commissioner Malmström regretted the negative vote at the Regulatory Committee (the preceding day) due to "difficulty" between transport and security officials in member states and called for greater co-operation. The UK expressed "extreme disappointment" at the outcome in Regulatory Committee, emphasised the threat remained significant and that the proposals voted on would significantly improve standards and called for Transport Ministers to reconsider this.

The presidency adopted the Council conclusions aligning internal and external counter-terrorism. The EU counter-terrorism co-ordinator (EU CTC) presented his discussion paper, highlighting the Arab spring, EU engagement in Pakistan and disappointment at the Regulatory Committee vote. The UK welcomed the EU CTC's paper, specifically the importance of communication; the link between CT and drugs, the rule of law and organised crime; nuclear security, aviation security; political dialogue with the Arab world and progress on EU PNR. The UK agreed the threat remained strong and said that the EU must target efforts on areas of greatest risk (while complementing member states' actions) and welcomed the EU Pakistan strategy. The UK asserted the importance of EU passenger name records, committed to supporting the communicators' network, thanked the Presidency for the conclusions on aligning internal and external CT and highlighted the launch of the UK's new Prevent strategy.

Under AOB there was a presentation of the project "Police Equal Performance" which is designed to enhance law enforcement capacity in cross-border activities in the western Balkans; a finalised proposal should be completed by the autumn. The upcoming Polish presidency gave a presentation on their priorities which included the common package for asylum; action to tackle synthetic drugs; the Eastern partnership, civil protection; and management of the external border.

The justice day commenced with the Council reaching a general approach on the directive on combating attacks against information systems. The UK welcomed the text, although noted reservations about the developing trend of providing in all such instruments for extra-territorial jurisdiction based on jurisdiction; this should not become the default approach.

Next, the Commission introduced its package of proposals on corruption, including a Commission decision on an anti-corruption reporting mechanism and a paper on EU accession to GRECO (the Council of Europe's Group of States Against Corruption). The Commission thought Europe had to take this in hand and that corruption had a significant cross-border element, hence the importance of EU involvement in improving the patchy implementation of existing international standards. The Commission was mindful of avoiding additional burdens through the reporting mechanism.

The presidency secured a partial general approach on articles 1 to 18 and Y of the draft directive on the European Investigation Order (EIO), although acknowledged that aspects of the text might need to be revisited at a later stage. Many member states congratulated the presidency on the progress made over the last few months, although it was clear that substantial concessions had been made across the Council, with the grounds for refusing to execute an EIO being the most controversial issue. The UK could not support the current text, maintaining its parliamentary scrutiny reservation. The UK disagreed with the current exceptions to the dual criminality check which executing states could undertake in respect of the most sensitive and serious investigative measures. The drafting of the provision on ne bis in idem might also need to be revisited at a later stage. The incoming Polish presidency intends to continue the negotiations.

Next the Council adopted conclusions on the memory of crimes committed by the totalitarian regimes in Europe. Several member states intervened to recall the importance of action in this area and said they would prefer a legally binding instrument in this field.

The Council then agreed the proposed resolution establishing a road map for future action on protection of victims' rights. The road map is a statement of political intent, and sets out the basis for future legislative measures. The UK agreed the road map.

The Commission also presented the recently published victims package, including a draft directive on rights in criminal proceedings, a regulation on protection measures in civil matters and a communication on strengthening victims' rights in the EU. The UK noted the presentation and has yet to make its decision on the opt-in for the directive and regulation.

The presidency also introduced its political guidelines which aimed to set the direction for fundamental issues in the matter of the proposed regulation on succession and wills. The compromise was welcomed by the majority of member states. The UK was grateful for explicit commitment to revisit some issues at a later point to facilitate its possible participation.

Over lunch, Ministers discussed a presidency paper on the future of EU criminal policy.

After lunch the Council noted the proposal for a regulation on electronic publication of the Official Journal of the European Union, which would give proper recognition and legal certainty to the electronic version. As some member states (including the UK) could not lift their parliamentary scrutiny reservations, the text could not be forwarded to the European Parliament for consent, but agreement would enable quick progress to be made should reservations be lifted.

The Council agreed the revised road map on implementation of the European e-justice action plan and endorsed the report of the working party on e-law, without discussion.

The presidency gave an update on the state of play on negotiations on the accession agreement of the European Union to the European convention for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Commission expressed the view that considerable progress has been made in the timeframe and they looked forward to continuing work with the Council of Europe.

Then the Commission introduced the recently published communication on protection of the financial interest of the Union through criminal law and administrative investigations.

The Commission presented its communication on protecting EU funds against fraud and other criminal conduct. Commissioner Reding highlighted the proposed reform of the internal structure of Eurojust, in order to provide OLAF (the EU's anti-fraud office) with a judicial partner, and the importance that a European public prosecutor (EPP) could play in protecting public money across EU. The Government have made it clear that they will not participate in an EPP.

There was a presentation on the missing children Europe conference that took place on 25 and 26 May 2011. The presidency and the Commission recalled the successful conference to raise awareness of the 116000 hotline for missing children, although were disappointed that a substantial number of member states had not yet fully implemented the helpline, the deadline for which had now passed. The UK has implemented the hotline and it is fully operational.

Slovenia also updated delegations on the Brdo conference of the western Balkans, held on 15 April at Brdo pro Kranju, which focused on improving judicial co-operation in criminal matters, in particular in relation to organised crime and asset recovery.

Germany also informed the Council of its impending accession to the network for legislative co-operation, which would take place on 17 June at the next meeting of the network, in Budapest.

Finally, Poland presented its priorities for the presidency, which begins on 1 July 2011, and confirmed that they would focus on protection of citizens' rights. They hoped to make progress on the regulation on succession and wills and the Brussels I regulation and prioritise the Commission's package of proposals on victims. Poland also indicated that it would hold discussions on EU contract law at the informal JHA Council on 18 and 19 July.

TRANSPORT

Chiltern Railway (Penalty)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker): I have decided to impose a penalty on Chiltern Railway of £350,000, having taken account of the outcome of a statutory consultation process.

The penalty relates to four breaches of the terms of the company's franchise agreement which occurred before management of Chiltern transferred to Arriva UK trains in early 2011. These involved late delivery of two station improvements, and two timetable changes which were not properly authorised by the Department for Transport and which could, if un-rectified, have significantly reduced the value of the franchise to the Department. These breaches were in the context of the company's poor performance in meeting a number of its detailed contractual obligations over a substantial period.

The Department imposes such penalties very rarely. When it does so, the aim is to encourage train operators to comply with their contractual obligations to the Department under franchise agreements. It should be emphasised that the penalty does not relate to Chiltern's operational performance. As a number of consultees commented, the company is noted for its high standard of performance and customer satisfaction, and for the substantial investment it is making in improving services.

The penalty has been reduced from the proposed level of £500,000 in the light of the responses to the consultation, and in particular the welcome and clear assurances from Chiltern that it has stepped up its commitment and oversight at senior management level to ensure compliance with the terms of its franchise.

The receipts from the penalty will be retained by the Department and reinvested in transport. No decision has been made at this stage as to the final use of the funds.

Thameslink Rolling Stock

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): The Department for Transport is today announcing the identity of the preferred bidder for the new fleet of trains required for the Thameslink programme. This represents a significant milestone in the delivery of this crucial rail upgrade project.

The £6 billion Thameslink programme includes major improvements to central London stations such as Blackfriars, Farringdon and London Bridge and will generate significant benefits for passengers. It will make travelling across London and the south-east faster, easier and more reliable and will reduce crowding on some of the busiest sections of London's transport network. It will see the introduction of a new generation of electric commuter trains operating with metro-style frequency at up to 24 trains per hour through the central section during the morning and evening peaks.

This new fleet of trains comprises some 1,200 carriages. By the end of 2018, this will almost double the capacity of Thameslink's core central London section in the peak periods. It is a major part of the Government's commitment to introduce an additional 2,100 carriages on to the rail network by 2019, as announced in November of last year. The new Thameslink fleet is expected to release existing carriages for use elsewhere on the network, particularly as further routes are electrified, for example in the north-west of England and the Thames Valley commuter lines.

The competition to supply trains and maintenance services for the Thameslink programme was designed and launched under the previous Administration in 2008, in accordance with EU procurement procedures. In October 2009 the previous Government announced that the two remaining short-listed bidders were Siemens Plc with Cross London Trains (XLT) and Bombardier Transportation UK Ltd with VeloCity. Since then, a great deal of work has been undertaken by the Department with both bidders to refine proposals and to secure best and final bids.

Following the completion of the process, I can announce today that the preferred bidder for the supply of the new Thameslink trains will be Siemens Plc with Cross London Trains (XLT)—a special purpose company comprising of Siemens Project Ventures GmbH, Innisfree Ltd and 3i Infrastructure Plc.

The Siemens-led venture will deliver the first new train on to the network by the start of 2015, with the order complete by the middle of 2017. The new trains will offer a step change in passenger experience, with greater passenger carrying capacity, improved passenger communication and easier access for passengers with specific mobility needs. They will also deliver high-levels of reliability with the owner and manufacturer of the trains liable for financial penalties if the trains do not perform.

The choice of Siemens Plc with Cross London Trains (XLT) as preferred bidder represents the best value for money for taxpayers. Siemens is today confirming that this announcement will create up to 2,000 new jobs in their UK operations and across the UK supply chain in train component manufacturing, with a particular focus in the North-East of England, and in the construction of the depots and subsequent maintenance of the new fleet of trains.

These jobs are additional to those created by the Thameslink infrastructure works which are currently underway. At the peak of construction activity—during the reconstruction of London Bridge station from 2013 to 2018—we expect around 3,000 people to be directly employed on the Thameslink infrastructure works as a whole, with as many again employed in related jobs in the wider community. Taking account of other investments in rail announced by this Government, including Crossrail and the Inter City Express programme, the total peak construction employment rises to around 17,000 people.

In order to maintain momentum on the Thameslink programme, it is important that discussions with Siemens Plc and Cross London Trains move forward quickly to enable financial close to occur as soon as practicable. That is, of course, subject to the Government being satisfied that the proposal continues to offer value-for-money as the commercial discussions are concluded.

The alternative bidder, Bombardier Transportation UK Ltd with VeloCity—a special purpose company comprising Bombardier Transportation (Holdings) UK Ltd, RREEF Ltd, Serco Holdings Ltd, Amber Infrastructure Group Ltd and SMBC Leasing (UK) Ltd—also presented an attractive proposal and it is our intention to retain them as the reserve bidder.

This announcement of the preferred bidder for these new trains marks further progress in the delivery of the Thameslink programme, and reinforces the Government's commitment to upgrading the capacity, quality and reliability of our transport infrastructure and ensuring high value for money for the taxpayer in delivering major rail projects.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 17 June 2011

TREASURY

Tax Consultations

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): Budget 2011 announced a number of tax policy changes and longer-term tax reforms that will be subject to consultation. These are summarised in the tax consultation tracker, which is available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/tax_updates.htm.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and HM Treasury have today published the following consultation documents:

> "Statutory definition of tax residence: a consultation"—a consultation on the introduction of a statutory definition of tax residence to provide greater certainty for individuals.
>
> "Reform of the taxation of non-domiciled individuals: a consultation"—a consultation on the detail of reforms to the taxation of non-domiciled individuals.
>
> Simplification of regulatory penalties—a consultation on reforms to penalties that HMRC can impose for failure to comply with administrative obligations across the tax and duty regimes.

The tax consultation tracker has been updated to reflect latest planning assumptions for future publications in June and July.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Topical Oral Question (Correction)

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Jeremy Hunt): In my reply to the topical question asked by my hon. Friend the Member for Central Devon (Mel Stride) in yesterday's DCMS topical question session, *Official Report*, column 914, I inadvertently gave a figure for Olympic ticket allocation to guests of the Government as 2,900.

I should have given the ticket allocation as 3,300.

DEFENCE

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Fort Halstead Site)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Peter Luff): The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) has recently completed a review of the operations at its Fort Halstead site. As a result of this review, DSTL has proposed that these operations should be relocated to its other two sites—Portsdown West and Porton Down—and that the Fort Halstead site should be closed.

I have approved the proposed relocation programme, which will take around five years. DSTL's current activities at Fort Halstead include support to operations in Afghanistan and to counter-terrorism activity in the UK. By bringing together DSTL's facilities and capabilities, the programme will result in more robust and resilient scientific support to national defence and security and will offer better value to the taxpayer.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and Foreign Affairs Councils (20-21 June)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will attend the Foreign Affairs Council on 20 June. I will attend the General Affairs Council on 21 June. Both meetings will be held in Luxembourg.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (FOREIGN MINISTERS)

Sudan

Ministers will focus on Sudan in the run-up to the secession of South Sudan on 9 July. They are likely to discuss the worrying violence in the Abyei and southern Kordofan regions of Sudan and the lack of progress on key issues under the comprehensive peace agreement. Ministers will also have the opportunity to welcome the EU's comprehensive approach strategy for Sudan, setting out the EU's approach to supporting the emergence of two viable, peaceful and prosperous states in North and South Sudan.

Western Balkans

We expect Ministers to discuss the ongoing political stalemate in Albania, compounded by the dispute over recent local election results. On a visit to Tirana on 9 June, I outlined the UK's concerns at the continued impasse to the political leaders, and stressed the need to find consensus-based solutions to put Albania back on its reform path to the EU. The UK has also supported Baroness Ashton's and Commissioner Fule's recent joint statement (see link below) that called for a fair and transparent legal process, and for Albania's leaders to live up to the European aspirations of the Albanian citizens. We are working for conclusions that stress similar concerns.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/122198.pdf

We expect Baroness Ashton to raise two information points: on Bosnia and Herzegovina on the appointment of a new EU Head of Delegation; and on Serbia/Kosovo she will update the FAC on developments following the arrest of Mladic, and on her visit to the region.

Belarus

Ministers are due to discuss the worsening political and human rights situation in Belarus. They will consider applying further targeted restrictive measures in order to put pressure on the regime to release all political prisoners and cease the continuing repression of human rights defenders. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made a statement on the sentences passed against former presidential candidates in Belarus on 27 May:

> "I utterly condemn the sentences passed against former presidential candidates, Mikolai Statkevich and Dmitry Uss, on 26 May. Whatever the official reason given for their conviction it is clear that their real "crime" was the exercise of their right to protest against the flawed elections of 19 December.
>
> I equally condemn the sentencing on 20 May of former presidential candidates, Vladzimir Neklyayev and Vytaly Rymasheuski. This trial is the latest in a series of politically-motivated show trials which have seen the conviction of 43 people. The Belarusian

authorities need to understand that there can be no normalisation of relations with the international community without respect for the most basic of human rights and fundamental freedoms."

European Neighbourhood Policy

Ministers will consider conclusions on the European neighbourhood policy, on the basis of the recent communication from the European Commission and External Action Service. This precedes a likely discussion of the new policy by Heads of Government at the European Council on 23-24 June. The revised European neighbourhood policy forms the centrepiece of the EU's response to the events of the last months in the southern neighbourhood. The communication, which we broadly support, was the subject of an explanatory memorandum submitted to Parliament on 3 June.

Southern Neighbourhood (Libya/Syria/Yemen)

Ministers will discuss progress on Libya since the contact group held in Abu Dhabi on 9 June, where participants agreed to increase pressure on Gaddafi's regime. My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), represented the UK at that meeting. Ministers may also assess the latest humanitarian situation and stabilisation plans.

My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and Secretary of State for International Development travelled to Benghazi on 4 June to demonstrate their support for the national transitional council and discuss the council's plans for a political road map for the future of Libya. Following the visit, the Foreign Secretary updated the House on the middle east and north Africa on 7 June (see link below).

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?id=609070182&view=PressR

On Syria, we expect Ministers to consider recent developments on the ground. We are considering proposing further names of individuals and entities to add to the EU sanctions list. We believe it is vital that the EU keeps up the pressure on Syria while the violence continues. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said to the House on 7 June, Bashar al-Assad is losing legitimacy. He should either reform or step aside.

Ministers will also discuss the current situation in Yemen. If conclusions are agreed, we expect them to repeat the EU's call for President Saleh to stand down. We continue to call on all sides to renew dialogue and pursue the Gulf Co-operation Council-brokered initiative as the only solution for smooth political transition in Yemen. On 6 June, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made a joint statement with his German, French, Spanish and Italian counterparts calling for transition to take place on the basis of the GCC initiative. The statement said:

> "We take note of President Abdullah Ali Saleh's departure from Yemen and are grateful to Saudi Arabia for receiving him on its territory for urgent medical assistance. After months of troubles and violence that have inflicted considerable suffering to the people of Yemeni and caused much destruction, we urge all Yemeni civilian and military leaders to respect the truce initiated by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia.
>
> We call on the Yemeni people to find the way to reconciliation in a spirit of dialogue and national unity, in particular on the basis of the proposals presented in the framework of the Gulf Co-operation Council's initiative, which we fully support, in order for the Yemeni people to be able to democratically choose its leader. We stand ready to fully support the Yemenis in this move."

Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)

We are expecting the discussion to be conducted in an informal session over lunch, looking at the latest developments in the MEPP.

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

June European Council

The General Affairs Council will help prepare the June European Council, which takes place in Brussels on 23-24 June 2011. The agenda will cover migration, Croatian accession and economic policy. On the latter point there will be an update by the Commission about the national reform programmes, submitted by member states in April. In this context there may also be a discussion about growth-enhancing structural reforms, following the commitments made by member states at the March European Council. There may also be discussion on the eurozone crisis and the latest situation in the middle east and north Africa. The Council is expected to approve conclusions about the Danube strategy and the integration of Roma communities.

The EU's overseas development assistance (ODA) targets may also be raised at the European Council. The Foreign Affairs Council adopted conclusions in May (see link below) which set out actual performances against EU aid targets (0.7% of EU gross national income by 2015).

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/122163.pdf

The conclusions of the last European Council in March, where the focus was on economic policy, Libya/north Africa and Japan, can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/120296.pdf

18-Month Programme of the Council

Ministers will discuss the 18-month programme of the Council. This sets out the combined programme of the Polish, Danish and Cypriot presidencies of the Council covering the period July 2011 to December 2012. We expect the programme to be published on the Council's website in the next few days.

I will deposit copies of this note in the Libraries of both Houses when we receive it, and I will update Parliament on Foreign and General Affairs Councils after the meetings.

HEALTH

Registration of Primary Medical Care Providers

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr Simon Burns): I wish to inform the House of a proposal that the Department is today publishing to defer the registration of NHS GP practices with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) until April 2013.

CQC is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England. All providers of a regulated activity are required to register with the CQC. In order to be registered and to remain registered, providers are required to comply with a set of registration requirements that establish the essential levels of safety and quality.

Where a registered provider fails to meet these registration requirements the CQC has a range of enforcement powers that it can use to bring about improvements. In the case of persistent and/or serious failings, the CQC has the power to stop providers operating.

The role of registration with CQC is central to the Government's plans for the future delivery of health care and adult social care in England. It forms the foundation on which high-quality services can be built.

Since April 2010, the CQC has registered around 20,000 health and adult social care providers. This has been a major programme of work which the CQC has carried out well.

In April 2012, providers of primary medical care are due to enter the registration system. This covers providers of primary medical care services for the NHS including GP practices, out-of-hours primary care services and NHS walk-in centres. This final wave comprises registration of around 8,000 providers.

We have reconsidered the timing of the registration of primary medical services providers for the NHS and believe there are strong reasons to move the start date for the registration for most of these providers to April 2013.

Postponing the registration of most primary medical services providers for the NHS will afford the opportunity to ensure that, when it does go ahead, the CQC's systems, tools and processes will have been refined in the light of the experience of the earlier registration rounds and piloting with primary medical services providers.

A pause will also allow for the further development of accreditation schemes for primary medical services providers to be used as evidence of their compliance with the registration requirements.

For these reasons, we are seeking views on a proposal that the registration of most primary medical services providers should be deferred until April 2013.

The Government have made a commitment to bring out-of-hours providers into registration at the earliest opportunity. I am therefore proposing that the registration of dedicated providers of out-of-hours care should go ahead as planned, in April 2012, together with registration of NHS walk-in centres which do not provide primary care to a list of registered patients.

I believe that phasing the registration of NHS providers of primary medical services will strike the right balance between protecting the safety of patients and making the registration process more streamlined for both providers and the CQC.

The consultation has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (17 June 2011)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will be held on 17 June 2011 in Luxembourg. I will represent the United Kingdom on all agenda items.

There will be two round-table discussions at this meeting. The first will be a policy debate on the Commission's proposal for Council recommendations on member states' employment policies. I will stress that the United Kingdom wishes to strike the right balance, between acknowledging the Commission's right to propose these recommendations to all member states, and ensuring Council's input to the final text. Ownership by Council, with recommendations reflecting national priorities, will best secure the commitment of member states to deliver, and challenge each other, on the pace and depth of our labour market and welfare reforms.

The second discussion will be on demographic change and family policies where member states will be asked to give their views on how to support families most effectively. I will highlight the UK's policy approaches and stress that while European Union level-discussion can help to inform national decisions, this is not an area of policy that will ever lend itself to a "one-size-fits-all" approach. Discussion at European Union level needs to take account of the individual contexts in different member states and member state competence in this area.

There will be a progress report on the pregnant workers directive. I will stress that the United Kingdom will not accept a directive which would fundamentally change our system of maternity pay and impose significant and unjustified costs on member states. Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the co-ordination of social security systems (Miscellaneous Amendments) is also on the agenda for a progress report. I will acknowledge progress made on this dossier, and make a statement about the importance of clarifying the interaction between the social security co-ordination and the free movement directive. There will also be a progress report on equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, an area in which the United Kingdom has comprehensive legislation.

Ministers will consider a number of Council conclusions. These will cover promoting youth employment to achieve the Europe 2020 objectives, reconciling work and family life in the context of demographic change, and tackling child poverty and promoting child well-being.

Under any other business, the Hungarian presidency will report on conferences they have hosted and provide information on social and employment-related aspects of the legal migration directives. The Commission will report on the United Nations convention on the rights of people with disabilities and will also provide an update on electromagnetic fields. The Cypriot delegation will provide information on the forum on the future of democracy. The French delegation will outline plans for the G20 meeting of Labour and Employment Ministers and the incoming Polish presidency will provide information on their work programme.

Petitions

Thursday 16 June 2011

OBSERVATIONS

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arms Exports

The Petition of residents of Wirksworth and the Derbyshire Dales,

Declares that the petitioners strongly oppose the current sale of UK arms to any country currently engaged in conflict, or any country known to be a repressive regime which pays scant regard to human rights; and further declares that the petitioners believe that the hurried revocation of UK export licences for arms and crowd control equipment which had been freely sold to Libya makes their point all too vividly.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to prevent the further sale of UK arms and riot control equipment to any country engaged in conflict or with a record of human rights abuse.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented on 16 March 2011, Official Report, Vol. 525, c. 4P.]*

[P000903]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:

The Government take their arms export responsibilities very seriously. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are mandatory considerations for the assessment of all export licence applications. We do not export equipment where there is a clear risk it might be used for internal repression.

The UK operates one of the most robust and transparent arms exports control systems in the world. All applications for the export of controlled military goods are assessed, on a case-by-case basis, against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. This criteria includes the vital provision to revoke licences in the light of changing, unexpected circumstances.

In response to events in the middle east and north Africa, I have commissioned a review of Government policy and practice with regard to the export of equipment that might be used for internal repression, in particular crowd control goods. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is leading this internal review in close consultation with the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD). The Government will be reporting back on the review to Parliament as soon as practicable.

TRANSPORT

Parking Restrictions (Ablewell Street, Walsall)

The Petition of the business owners and customers of Ablewell Street, Walsall,

Declares that the Petitioners are opposed to the parking restrictions on Ablewell Street.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to encourage Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council to allow a parking amnesty of at least 30 minutes.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Valerie Vaz, Official Report,* 24 May 2011; Vol. 528, c. 891.]

[P000923]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The responsibility for parking restrictions rests with the relevant local authority and it is for them to decide on appropriate policies that balance the needs of local residents, emergency services, local businesses, and those who work in and visit the area.

Local authorities have a crucial role to play in relieving congestion and improving road safety and the environment.

Where problems occur, the Government look to local authorities to use their traffic management powers to address these issues which may include the introduction of parking restrictions to balance the supply and demand for road space in the light of local needs and circumstances.

Where local authorities have obtained civil parking enforcement (CPE) powers under the Traffic Management Act (TMA) 2004, they can enforce their own parking policies. The Government recommend that all local authorities take on CPE powers so that the police may concentrate on the more serious priorities.

The Government do not intervene in local parking matters as to do so would contradict the coalition Government's policy to promote localism.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 7 June 2011

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the full-time equivalent number of staff *(a)* directly employed by the House of Commons Service and *(b)* employed by contractors to provide services to the House of Commons including the Police and the Post Office was in (i) 1987, (ii) 1992, (iii) 1997, (iv) 2001, (v) 2005 and (vi) 2010. [57336]

John Thurso: The numbers of full-time equivalent staff directly employed by the House of Commons in financial years 1992-93, 1997-98, 2001-02, 2005-06 and 2010-11 are as follows. Data are not available for 1987-88.

Financial year	*FTEs*
1992-93	1,285
1997-98	1,397
2001-02	1,399
2005-06	1,428
2010-11	1,564

The House does not hold information on the numbers of full-time equivalent staff employed by contractors that provide services to the House.

The information provided excludes the Parliamentary Information and Communication Technology (PICT) department which was created in 2006.

Pay

Hugh Bayley: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many members of staff *(a)* directly employed by the House of Commons Service and *(b)* employed by contractors to provide services to the House of Commons, including the Police and the Post Office, were paid more in salaries, overtime and performance awards than a backbench hon. Member in (i) 1987, (ii) 1992, (iii) 1997, (iv) 2001, (v) 2005 and (vi) 2010. [57335]

John Thurso: The number of staff that were paid more in salaries, overtime and performance awards than a backbench hon. Member was 79 in financial year 2005-06 and 87 in financial year 2010-11. Detailed records for earlier years are no longer held. The House does not hold the equivalent information on staff employed by contractors.

The information provided excludes the Parliamentary Information and Communication Technology (PICT) department which was created in 2006.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how much was paid in total in salaries to *(a)* House of Commons Service staff and *(b)* staff employed by contractors to provide services to the House of Commons, including the Police and the Post Office (i) in cash terms and (ii) at constant prices in (A) 1987, (B) 1992, (C) 1997, (D) 2001, (E) 2005 and (F) 2010. [57337]

John Thurso: The total amounts paid in salaries to House of Commons staff in financial years 2001-02, 2005-06 and 2010-11 in cash terms and at constant prices are shown in the following table:

			£ million
	2001-02	*2005-06*	*2010-11*
Pay	36	44	57
Pay (adjusted for RPI)	46	52	57

Resource accounts showing salary related details were introduced in 2001-02. The previous cash accounts do not provide this detail.

The information provided excludes the Parliamentary Information and Communication Technology (PICT) department which was created in 2006.

PRIME MINISTER

Devolution: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Prime Minister what requests he received from *(a)* members of the Welsh Government and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Wales between 6 and 20 May 2011 for a meeting to discuss issues relating to Wales. [57722]

The Prime Minister: I spoke to the First Minister on his appointment to congratulate him and commit to regular communication with the Welsh Government about issues which affect the people of Wales. I will be discussing issues relating to Wales with the First Minister of Wales at the forthcoming Joint Ministerial Committee meeting. I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), about issues relating to Wales.

IRA

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Prime Minister if he will seek an expression of regret or apology from the Government of the Republic of Ireland for any part played by the Republic of Ireland in the arming and financing of the Provisional IRA. [57069]

The Prime Minister: It is for each state to account for its own actions. I and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Shropshire (Mr Paterson), continue to discuss with our Irish counterparts what positive role our Governments can play in dealing with Northern Ireland's troubled past.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel were serving *(a)* abroad and *(b)* in Afghanistan on (i) 6 May 2010 and (ii) 5 May 2011. [55971]

Nick Harvey: The precise number of personnel overseas fluctuates on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including mid-tour rest and recuperation, temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces, visits and a range of other factors. We do not, therefore, publish actual figures for personnel deployed.

On 6 May 2010, there were around 13,750 military posts established overseas on operations and in April 2010, there were 25,350 military posts established overseas on other tasks. Therefore the total number of military posts established overseas was around 39,100, of which, 9,500 were in Afghanistan.

On 5 May 2011, there were around 14,450 military posts established overseas on operations and in April 2011, there were 24,230 military posts established overseas on other standing tasks. Therefore the total number of military posts established overseas was around 38,680, of which, 9,500 were in Afghanistan. This figure excludes special forces.

Apache AH-64 Helicopter

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has plans to equip Apache helicopters with the Ground Fire Acquisition System. [57875]

Peter Luff: There are no current plans to equip our Apache helicopters with the US Ground Fire Acquisition System. The UK's need for such a system is being addressed as part of our wider defensive aids suite programme. We do not routinely provide details about the defensive aids used by the UK's military aircraft, as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Armed Forces: 2012 Olympics

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assistance he is providing to members of the armed forces to qualify to compete in events in the London 2012 Olympics; and if he will make a statement; [57705]

(2) what assistance he is providing to *(a)* current and *(b)* former members of the armed forces to qualify to compete in events in the London 2012 Paralympics; and if he will make a statement. [57706]

Mr Robathan: In terms of participation in sporting events, all service personnel are treated the same, be they able-bodied or disabled, and policies are in place to aid them in volunteering for sporting events, including applications for special paid and/or unpaid leave and taking part in representative sport. Financial assistance in the form of grants from non-public funds can also be awarded. A number of athletes are engaged in full-time training.

Sport plays an important part in the development of the attributes required in service personnel and has a significant effect upon morale. It provides an inducement to physical fitness and contributes to military effectiveness by encouraging personal qualities such as courage, resilience and esprit de corps.

Fulfilment of sporting expectations is also an important retention and recruitment factor. All members of the armed forces are therefore encouraged to participate in sport in the service.

Assistance to former members of the armed forces to enable them to qualify for the London 2012 Paralympics is provided by their national governing body. This assistance can be supplemented by the Combined Services Adaptive Sports Association (Battle Back—Sport) when required, primarily in the form of grants from non-public funds.

Armed Forces: Absent Voting

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements his Department put in place to enable members of the armed forces serving overseas to vote by post before the May 2011 elections and referendum on the voting system; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of those arrangements. [57561]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Cabinet Office worked with the Electoral Commission, British Forces Post Office (BFPO) and Royal Mail to make specific provision for service personnel in Afghanistan to register to vote and use proxy or postal votes, 281 service personnel chose to use proxy votes, as recommended by the Electoral Commission and MOD. There were 61 new applications made to vote by post through this initiative and 40 completed ballots were returned through the dedicated system. No special services were provided for British Forces in Germany because service personnel there receive a direct daily service. In Cyprus, special arrangements were put in place to return ballot papers via RAF flights into Brize Norton and then subsequently as a priority despatch into the Royal Mail. For other overseas locations, BFPO identified and fast tracked ballot papers when under their control.

The Electoral Commission will be completing a report on the conduct of the referendum and polls on 5 May 2011, and I understand the Commission plan to comment on this initiative in that report.

Armed Forces: Allowances

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria his Department uses to determine who is eligible for the operational allowance. [57593]

Mr Robathan: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bridgend (Mrs Moon) on 9 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 968-69W.

Armed Forces: Complaints

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether he has considered the merits of introducing an Armed Forces Ombudsman; [57494]

(2) whether he has any plans to change the number of investigators in the Service Complaints System. [57495]

Mr Robathan: Both of these ideas were raised in the recently published third report of the Service Complaints Commissioner, therefore, I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 869W.

Armed Forces: Dogs

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* dogs and *(b)* horses are in the service of the armed forces. [57873]

Mr Robathan: There are currently 610 military working dogs and 485 horses in service with the armed forces. There are a further 419 dogs in service with the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency and other guarding organisations.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military wards there are in NHS hospitals; and in what year each opened. [57693]

Mr Robathan: There is one designated military ward for military casualties aero-medically evacuated back to the UK which is located in the Queen Elizabeth hospital Birmingham (QEHB), opened in June 2010.

We also have arrangements with five NHS trust hospitals for the hosting of Ministry of Defence hospital units (MDHUs) to facilitate continuing training, development and maintenance of clinical skills of military medical personnel.

The locations of the MDHUs are as follows:

Derriford hospital, Plymouth, opened in April 1995;
Frimley Park general hospital, opened in July 1999;
Friarage hospital, Northallerton, opened in July 1999;
Queen Alexandra hospital, Portsmouth, opened in April 2005;
Peterborough city hospital, opened in February 1996.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many service personnel have participated in the Armed Forces Home Ownership Scheme in each year since its introduction; [57588]

(2) what the budget for the Armed Forces Home Ownership Scheme *(a)* has been in each year since its introduction and *(b)* is for (i) 2011-12 and (ii) 2012-13. [57589]

Mr Robathan: In January 2010 the Ministry of Defence launched the Armed Forces Home Ownership Scheme (Pilot) after working with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to develop a pilot, bespoke, shared equity scheme for the armed forces. Some £5 million per year has been allocated, with the pilot running until 2013.

The scheme has proved popular with the target range of more junior personnel (those serving at least four years but no more than six). There have been over 1,000 eligible applicants in the first year, 165 of whom were financially assessed and actively sought properties. Of these 165, 83 have completed the purchase of a property.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what budget has been set for the armed forces *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* NewBuild HomeBuy and *(c)* FirstBuy scheme for 2011-12; whether there is a budget for service personnel under each scheme; and whether each such budget is additional to the budget allocation for the Armed Forces Home Ownership Scheme. [57689]

Mr Robathan: HomeBuy Direct, NewBuild HomeBuy and FirstBuy are demand-led schemes and as such there is no separate budget for armed forces personnel, but they will receive the highest priority for the schemes.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance he plans to issue to local authorities on ensuring priority access for service personnel to *(a)* FirstBuy, *(b)* NewBuild HomeBuy and *(c)* HomeBuy Direct to service personnel. [57690]

Mr Robathan: None. FirstBuy, shared ownership (NewBuild HomeBuy) and HomeBuy Direct are delivered through the Homes and Communities Agency which is sponsored by the Department for Communities and Local Government. The schemes are offered through a network of 15 local HomeBuy agents who provide a one-stop shop for purchasers. HomeBuy agents are tasked with proactively targeting Government priority groups, including service personnel.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who is eligible for the armed forces *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* NewBuild HomeBuy and *(c)* FirstBuy scheme. [57691]

Mr Robathan: All service personnel, bereaved spouses within the first year of death and all service leavers within their first year of discharge are eligible for top priority under the schemes. They must also meet the schemes' general criteria, such that they have a household income of less than the current maximum threshold of £60,000 and cannot afford to purchase a home without assistance.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of service personnel who will participate in the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* NewBuild HomeBuy and *(c)* FirstBuy scheme. [57692]

Mr Robathan: No estimate has been made, but we will encourage all eligible personnel to consider these initiatives into home ownership.

Armed Forces: Ombudsman

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received on introducing an armed forces ombudsman. [57594]

Mr Robathan: I have received no representations directly on introducing an armed forces ombudsman. However, this issue was raised in the recently published third report of the Service Complaints Commissioner. Our response to this will be placed in the Library of the House in due course.

Armed Forces: Schools

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* service children and *(b)* children of reservists are being educated in state schools. [57591]

Mr Robathan: The annual schools census was conducted on 20 January 2011. It identified that there are around 36,000 service children currently recorded in England. There is no mechanism to identify how many children of reservists are being educated in state schools.

Armed Forces: Young People

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 417W, on armed forces: young people (1) how many and what proportion of armed service personnel who were recruited before their 18th birthday and were discharged from the armed services have gained *(a)* an AS or A Level, *(b)* a BTEC, *(c)* a Higher National Certificate, *(d)* a Higher National Diploma, *(e)* a national vocational qualification and *(f)* any other recognised qualification while serving in the last five years' [57451]

(2) how many and what proportion of armed service personnel who were recruited before their 18th birthday were discharged from the armed services having gained a recognised vocational qualification while serving in each of the last five years. [57481]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held in the format requested and could be produced only at disproportionate cost. However, statistics are available on the number of personnel under 18 who registered for an apprenticeship and, separately, on the total number and range of qualifications achieved by armed forces personnel generally in the last five years. This is shown in the following table:

Number of personnel under 18 when registered for an apprenticeship

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Naval Services	854	577	740	624	585
Army	1,804	2,338	1,560	1,818	1,659
RAF	1,492	1,151	784	653	615

The qualifications presented in the following table are expressed in accordance with the National Qualification Credits Framework:

	Financial year				
Type of qualification	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Military apprenticeships (Level (L) 2 and 3)	8,015	7,299	6,670	L2: 7,977 L3: 1,570	L2: 9,874 L3: 2,065
Stand alone NVQ and other L2	10,895	7,592	5,725	9,971	13,282
Stand alone NVQ and other L3	1,148	1,758	5,018	6,538	6,813
Stand alone NVQ and other L4	418	266	1,225	2,251	2,670
HND (L5)	140	238	185	[1]4,517	[1]4,774
Foundation degrees (L5)	541	502	435	[1]—	[1]—
Other L5	337	436	1,772	[1]—	[1]—
Honours degrees (L6)	81	185	146	[1]1,163	[1]543
Other L6	—	27	123	[1]—	[1]—
Postgraduate degrees/diploma and higher degrees	136	168	353	983	596

[1] Indicates brace

Note:

The format for the collection of Accreditation Statistics was changed for FY 2008-09 onwards to show levels of accreditation only.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 675W, on armed forces: young people, (1) if his Department will commission *(a)* internal or *(b)* external legal advice on the recruitment of those under the age of 18 into the armed services in light of recent developments in child welfare and protection; [57452]

(2) if he will commission advice on the legality of recruitment of those under the age of 18 to the armed forces. [57729]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has no need nor intention to commission external legal advice on the recruitment of under-18s into the armed forces. The MOD takes advice from its own legal advisers on issues relating to the recruitment of under-18s as the requirement arises. That legal advice is confidential and will not be disclosed. We are satisfied that our policies on under-18s in service are robust and comply with national and international law. In addition to the comprehensive welfare system that is in place for all service personnel, we remain fully committed to meeting our obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, and have taken steps to introduce special safeguards on young people under the age of 18. An example is our recent announcement that for those under the age of 18, the ability to be discharged will in future be a right up to the age of 18, subject to an appropriate period of consideration or cooling off.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 675W, on armed forces: young people, in what year his Department last received *(a)* internal and *(b)* external legal advice on the recruitment of those under the age of 18 years into the armed services. [57453]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 675W. It is not possible to ascertain without incurring disproportionate costs what external legal advice was ever received by the Ministry of Defence or its predecessors. However, internal legal advice on this issue constitutes part of normal policy development work within the Department, which is an ongoing process.

Ascension Island: Airports

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the contribution to British military interests of the airport on Ascension Island; what assessment he has made of the potential for the provision of military support to the South Atlantic from an airport on the island of St Helena; and if he will make a statement. [57351]

Nick Harvey: The military airfield on Ascension Island makes a vital contribution to the mission of British Forces South Atlantic Islands as the refuelling stop for the South Atlantic Airbridge and other RAF traffic between the UK and Falkland Islands.

Ascension Island is approximately equidistant from the UK and the Falkland Islands, and the shortest possible route by air; its runway is suitable for all military air traffic which can fly the required range. Plans for an airport on St Helena do not alter these considerations.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether RAF Menwith Hill is playing an operational role in US ballistic missile defence. [57245]

Nick Harvey: The only role RAF Menwith Hill plays in US ballistic missile defence is to route satellite early warning data to the US ballistic missile defence command and control system.

Defence Exports Support Group

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2010, *Official Report,* column 817W, on the Defence Exports Group, what the terms of reference are of the Defence Exports Support Group; on which dates it has met; and who attended each meeting. [58076]

Dr Fox: The terms of reference for the Defence Exports Support Group (DESG) were agreed at its first meeting on 16 December 2010. They are:

Defence Exports Support Group (DESG): Terms of Reference

The DESG is the forum through which Ministers will plan and focus their support to UK defence exports.

The core DESG membership is:

Secretary of State for Defence

Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology

Minister for International Security Strategy

Head, Defence and Security Organisation, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI)

Other Ministers and/or senior officials from the Ministry of Defence, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Home Office, and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills may attend as appropriate.

The DESG will meet quarterly or as appropriate for business needs.

The first meeting was attended by the Minister for International Security Strategy, Minister for Defence Equipment Support and Technology, Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Minister of State for Business and Enterprise, and Head of UKTI Defence and Security Organisation. In addition to these core members the Chief of Defence Material, Director General Defence Commercial and Director International Acquisition Policy attended from the Ministry of Defence.

Departmental Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to encourage charitable giving by Ministers in his Department. [57118]

Dr Fox: All Government Ministers have pledged to undertake a 'one day challenge' with a charity or community group of their choice. This is a clear and public commitment by Ministers to give their time to help others. The pledge aims to inspire others to consider how they might be able to support their communities to benefit themselves, as well as their chosen organisations.

Departmental Data Protection

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts his Department holds which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; to which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each such contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas under each such contract. [55736]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence holds eight contracts where personal data of UK citizens are held overseas. The following table provides the name of the contract, the country in which the data are held and the approximate number of records stored.

Contract	*Country in which data are held*	*Approximate number of personal records held*
Defence Travel Electronic Booking Information System	France	180,000
	USA	20,000
Defence Travel: Travel Management Contract	USA	310,000
Royal Navy Community Website	USA	18,000
e-bluey—hybrid system for the exchange of mail between Service personnel and family and friends	USA	33,962
Air Movements Information System (AMIS)	Germany	[1]10,000
Remote Access Movements Portal (RAMP)	USA[2]	[3]100,000
iNCS (Interim New Clothing Solution)	Canada	6,867

[1] Per month. Records are deleted 24 hours plus one minute after final sector of flight is completed.
[2] Department of Transport
[3] Per annum. Records are deleted after seven days

Fitlinxx, which provides fitness training programmes for service personnel, also hold a contract that allows for personal data of UK citizens to be held in the US. I will write to my hon. Friend with details of the number of records held once this information is available, and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Peter Luff to Eric Ollerenshaw:

Further to my answer to your Parliamentary Question on 24 May 2011 (Official Report, column 531W-532W), I am writing to inform you the Fitlinxx contract involves the storage of 6,000 personal records in the USA.

I hope this is helpful.

I have placed a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Departmental Land

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what land his Department proposes to sell in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [57597]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence keeps its estate under constant review to meet present and planned future requirements, with a view to disposing of surplus assets as quickly as possible. A list of the sites in the present programme and those earmarked for future disposal has been placed in the Library of the House.

Work is under way to identify additional estate rationalisation opportunities in accordance with the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 568W, on departmental land, when he plans to place in the Library a copy of the list of land sold by his Department in 2010-11. [57631]

Mr Robathan: A copy of the list of land sold by this Department in 2010-11 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of his Department's employees categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* number of employees taking voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [57614]

Mr Robathan: The Government are committed to transparency and the availability of data and are currently exploring options for the more frequent publication of this type of workforce management information across the civil service.

Ministry of Defence (MOD) Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) already publish periodic reports on MOD personnel numbers on its internet site at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

The UK Armed Forces Quarterly Manning Report sets out the number of personnel leaving the armed forces broken down by reason. A copy of the latest version of the report has been placed in the Library of the House.

The DASA site also contains the civilian personnel statistics quarterly return. Although this report does not currently contain all the information requested for civilian employees, its content has recently been reviewed and changes will be introduced for future editions. Those changes will include numbers leaving the civil service and the reasons for doing so.

Departmental Official Visits

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what official visits Ministers in his Department have undertaken since their appointment; and what the purpose was of each such visit. [56158]

Dr Fox: Ministers are routinely required to undertake formal visits, both in the UK and overseas, as part of their ministerial responsibilities.

Accordingly, Ministers have undertaken formal visits since their appointments, details of which have been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the result was of the inquiry into the unauthorised disclosure to the Prime Minister in September 2010 of his letter on reductions to his Department's budget; and if he will make a statement. [57653]

Dr Fox: The investigation remains open. I am not prepared to comment further.

Departmental Responsibilities

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what engagements he has undertaken in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* overseas in the last three months. [40787]

Dr Fox: Details of my overseas travel, received hospitality and meetings with organisations external to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) are published on a quarterly basis on the MOD website as part of the Government's Transparency Agenda, at the following address:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/Expenses/MinistersHospitalityReceived.htm

The information regarding my engagements in the UK for the last three months is currently being collated and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available.

Substantive answer from Liam Fox to Gemma Doyle:

I write in reply to your written parliamentary question:

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what engagements he has undertaken in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* overseas in the last three months.

I answered at the time that details of my overseas travel, received hospitality, and meetings with organisations external to the Ministry of Defence are published on a quarterly basis on the Ministry of Defence website as part of the Government's Transparency Agenda, and that I would write to you with details of my UK engagements.

A full list of my UK engagements has now been collated and is tabled as follows.

For the purposes of this question 'engagements in the UK' has been defined as meetings outside of the Ministry of Defence not including dinners, speeches, or receptions.

Date	*Place*	*Meeting*
2010		
November		
2	London	UK/France Summit
3	London	UKTI Symposium
4	London	SDSR Debate
8	London	Defence oral questions
8	London	The British Torch of Remembrance Service
9	RAF Cranwell	Address to service personnel
9	London	Address to the Spectator Conference
11	London	Cenotaph Service of Remembrance
11	London	Royal British Legion Poppy Ball
16	London	Address to the Rifles Club
17	Taunton	40 Commando Home Coming parade
17	London	Defence Council Reception
28 to 29	HMNB Clyde, Scotland	Operational briefing
December		
1	HMS Collingwood	Address to service personnel
6	York	4 Mechanised Brigade Thanksgiving Service
7	London	Meeting with the Japanese Ambassador
8	RCDM Birmingham	Meet injured service personnel and medical staff
9	London	BBC Question Time
10	GCHQ Cheltenham	Operational briefing
13	London	Defence oral questions
15	London	HCDC Evidence Session
15	London	Sun Military Awards
16	London	Nordic/Baltic Lunch
2011		
January		
10	London	CPS Policy Forum Speech
10	London	2nd Reading Armed Forces Bill
12	London	Armed Forces Pay Review Board
27	Salisbury	3 Commando Brigade Media Day
February		
1	London	Meeting with US CentCom Commander
3	London	House of Lords EU Committee

DM Beith

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what plans his Department has for the future ownership of DM Beith; [56930]

(2) what assessment he has made of the long-term strategic requirement for DM Beith; [56931]

(3) if he will reinstate a revised apprentice training programme at DM Beith; [56932]

(4) if he will assess the likely effects on DM Beith of his Department's Voluntary Early Release Scheme. [56933]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence will continue to require the maintenance, storage and distribution functions at Defence Munitions Beith in the near to medium term, but is continuing to assess possible options for the depot in the longer term. The future ownership of Beith will depend on the outcome of this work, which is taking into account our strategic requirement, value for money, and the linkage with associated industrial strategies, including the team complex weapons initiative. No decisions have yet been taken. The trade unions will be consulted formally at the appropriate time.

There are currently no plans to re-instate the apprentice training scheme at Beith. Any re-instatement would depend on the Department's business needs in the longer term and would take account of the decisions on the future operation of the depot.

The Ministry of Defence's Voluntary Early Release Scheme (VERS) closed on 31 March 2011. Applications under the scheme are still under consideration across the Department and, as a result, I cannot comment specifically on the position with respect to Beith. However, as my right hon. Friend the Minister for Defence Personnel Welfare and Veterans (Mr Robathan) stated in the answer given on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 70W, to the right hon. Member for East Renfrewshire (Mr Murphy), when introducing the VERS we recognised the need to implement it in such a way as to retain critical skills. Location is also a factor in selecting individuals for release.

HMS Ark Royal

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the total cost to his Department of the operation of HMS Ark Royal in 2010. [56772]

Nick Harvey: Operating costs are accounted for by financial year (FY). The operating costs for HMS Ark Royal for FY 2010-11 totalled £35 million. This includes pay and allowances, fuel, stock, and port fees.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the average weekly accommodation cost for personnel deployed in Italy to participate in Operation Ellamy has been since the start of the operation; [54501]

(2) what the average weekly cost for all UK armed forces operations from Gioia del Colle air base has been since the commencement of military operations; and how much has been spent per week on *(a)* personnel accommodation, *(b)* personal allowances, *(c)* fuel, *(d)* rent and *(e)* each other cost. [54502]

Nick Harvey: I expect the cost of the UK's involvement in NATO operations over Libya to be modest in comparison to other operations such as Afghanistan. While it is still too early to give a robust estimate of the final costs, I can provide initial indications of average accommodation, allowances, munitions and fuel costs.

We maintain a small presence in Naples and Poggio but the majority of the UK personnel in Italy are based at Gioia Del Colle air base and Trapani naval base. The average weekly total cost of accommodation at Gioia Del Colle, Trapani and Poggio is around £240,000, £33,000 and £12,000 respectively.

There are two types of personal allowance paid to service personnel in Italy. Longer separation allowance (LSA) is paid on an accrual basis for military personnel separated from their families and will continue to be paid for the duration of the operation. The total cost of LSA in Italy is around £120,000 per week.

Local overseas allowance (LOA) is paid for personnel on operations before a complete welfare package has been set up, as is currently the case in Poggio and Naples. The total cost of LOA in Italy is around £11,000 per week.

The gross book value (inclusive of VAT) of precision guided weapons fired in support of Operation Ellamy between 19 March and 8 May this year was around £6 million per week. Where there is sufficient contingency within current stock holdings to meet anticipated requirements for current and contingent operations, the Ministry of Defence does not intend to replenish all stocks of weapons deployed. We therefore cannot say at this stage how much of this sum will contribute to the charge against the Government Special Reserve.

Aviation fuel costs average around £300,000 per week, although they vary significantly week by week.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Brimstone missiles used as part of Operation Ellamy are to be replaced. [57654]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence is planning to replenish stocks of the dual-mode seeker Brimstone missiles as a result of their use in Operation Ellamy. In the meantime, there are sufficient stockholdings to meet anticipated demand for operations.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the purchase cost of each Brimstone missile is. [57655]

Peter Luff: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 111-12W, to the hon. Member for Ochil and South Perthshire (Gordon Banks).

Military Aircraft

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the mission accomplished rate was in Afghanistan for the *(a)* Tornado GR4 and *(b)* Harrier GR9 in the latest period for which figures are available. [56689]

Nick Harvey: 'Mission accomplished' is not a term employed in mission reports as whether the desired effect of a given sortie has been achieved may not often be immediately apparent—for instance, if the aircraft had attacked a target, further analysis may be necessary to determine the extent of the resulting damage. Aircraft may also fulfil other tasks, for instance reconnaissance or deterrence, and indeed conduct multiple tasks on the same mission, further complicating the assessment of the results of an individual sortie. Therefore there is no common definition of a mission accomplished rate and this information is not held.

Military Alliances

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with which countries the UK has signed a *(a)* defence treaty, *(b)* formal agreement, *(c)* Memorandum of Understanding and *(d)* Letter of Intent in each of the last 10 years. [57710]

Nick Harvey: The following lists set out countries with which the UK has signed defence treaties, formal agreements and bilateral memorandums of understanding for each year from 2001 to 2010 inclusive:

Defence treaties and formal agreements

2001
Russian federation
2002
Japan
Russian Federation
United States of America
2003
France
Germany
Russian Federation
2004
Russian Federation
United States of America
2005
Belgium
France
Germany
Italy
United States of America
2006
Canada
The Netherlands
Poland
2007
France
The Netherlands
United States of America
2008
France
Japan
2009
Iraq
Japan
Republic of Korea
Spain
2010
Brazil
France

No distinction is made between treaties and formal agreements, which are both regarded as legally binding. Records of all treaties and formal agreements signed by the United Kingdom are held by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Treaty section.

Signed bilateral Defence Memoranda of Understanding:

2001
Argentina
Australia
Bulgaria
Canada

Czech Republic
Denmark
Egypt
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
India
Italy
Latvia
The Netherlands
New Zealand
Nigeria
Norway
Portugal
Russian Federation
Serbia and Montenegro
Sierra Leone
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Switzerland
Ukraine
United States of America

2002

Australia
Brunei
Canada
Chile
Croatia
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Germany
Hungary
Ireland
Jamaica
Jordan
The Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Serbia and Montenegro
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
United States of America

2003

Albania
Australia
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Canada
Chile
People's Republic of China
Denmark
Georgia
Germany
Italy
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Lithuania
The Netherlands
New Zealand
Russian Federation
Serbia and Montenegro
Singapore
Slovenia
South Africa
Switzerland
United States of America
Uzbekistan

2004

Armenia
Australia
Azerbaijan
Belize
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
Czech Republic
Estonia
France
Georgia
Germany
Hungary
Italy
Japan
Kazakhstan
Latvia
Libya
Moldova
The Netherlands
New Zealand
Poland
Romania
Russian Federation
Serbia and Montenegro
Singapore
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
South Africa
Sweden
Switzerland
Tajikistan
Ukraine
United States of America
Uzbekistan

2005

Afghanistan
Australia
Austria
Bulgaria
Canada
Czech Republic
Denmark
Finland

Lithuania
The Netherlands
Norway
Pakistan
Qatar
Romania
Senegal
South Africa
Switzerland
The Gambia
Turkey
United States of America

2006

Australia
Austria
Brunei
Canada
Croatia
Denmark
Estonia
Israel
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Lebanon
Lithuania
The Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Qatar
Singapore
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
United States of America

2007

Albania
Australia
Bulgaria
Canada
Colombia
Curacao
Czech Republic
Egypt
Finland
France
Germany
Hungary
Kuwait
Lebanon
Libya
Lithuania
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Malawi
The Netherlands
Pakistan
Saudi Arabia
South Africa
United States of America

2008

Australia
Republic of Congo
Denmark
Estonia
Germany
Italy
Jordan
The Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Qatar
Rwanda
Senegal
Slovenia
South Africa
Sweden
United States of America

2009

Algeria
Australia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Brunei
Canada
Cape Verde Islands
Croatia
Denmark
Egypt
Estonia
Ethiopia
Germany
India
Italy
Japan
Republic of Kosovo
Libya
Liechtenstein
The Netherlands
New Zealand
Romania
Serbia
Spain
Turkey
Ukraine
United States of America

2010

Canada
Ethiopia
Finland
Iraq
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
New Zealand
The Netherlands
Portugal
Qatar
Tonga

Uganda
Ukraine
United States of America

More than one Memorandum of Understanding was signed with some countries in a year.

Letters of Intent were signed with France in 2003, 2007 and 2010. However, more complete records of Letters of Intent signed by the UK with other countries in the last 10 years are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Military Bases

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 562W, on military bases, who carried out the assessment of the local economic impact of RAF Menwith Hill; and what methodology was used. [57168]

Nick Harvey: The local economic impact assessment of RAF Menwith Hill was carried out by the US authorities, and included the salaries of US and UK personnel as well as the cost of construction projects, utilities, local supply purchases, and visitor lodging, meals and incidentals.

Military Police: Deployment

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at which sites Ministry of Defence Police are deployed; and what the responsibilities are of the personnel at each site. [57590]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) are the UK's only truly national police force, covering the four constituent parts of the country. The force's main responsibilities are to protect the personnel, resources and property of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) through the use of a variety of policing methods. These include community policing, armed guarding, specialist firearms units, nuclear escorts on land and sea, operational support units, the UK's largest marine policing capability, public order policing, criminal investigation including fraud and intelligence.

The use of the above functions varies from site to site in accordance with local requirements and the associated risk/threat. Sites covered include selected naval bases, garrisons, Atomic Weapons Establishments, US Visiting Forces sites, and non-MOD locations.

MDP officers may also volunteer for overseas duties in support of UK missions. They provide specialist training, support, monitoring and mentoring to local law enforcement and government agencies.

Stations by Division (Excluding CID and Defence Community Police Officers)

Scotland

1. Clyde
2. Clyde Marine Unit
3. Coulport
4. Beith
5. Crombie
6. Glen Douglas
7. Aberdeen Gas Compressor Site
8. St Fergus
9. Caledonia
10. Vulcan

North-East

1. Alconbury
2. Croughton
3. Fylingdales
4. Menwith Hill
5. Mildenhall
6. Easington
7. Bacton
8. MDPHQ Operational Detachment (Under Command of Operational Support MDPHQ)

AWE

1. Aldermaston
2. Burghfield
3. Special Escort Group

South-East

1. Beaconsfield
2. Bicester
3. Bordon
4. Fort Halstead
5. Fort Blockhouse
6. Gosport
7. Marchwood
8. Oakhanger
9. Portsmouth
10. Regents Park
11. Shrivenham
12. Whitehall

Western

1. Abbey Wood
2. Boscombe Down
3. Corsham
4. Culdrose
5. Dartmouth
6. Devonport
7. Donnington
8. Fairford
9. Hereford
10. Kineton
11. Llantrisant
12. Porton Down
13. Winterbourne Gunner
14. Yeovilton

Criminal Investigation Departments (CID)

1. Rosyth (based at HMS Caledonia)
2. Glasgow
3. Clyde
4. Northern Ireland (Palace Barracks)
5. Catterick Garrison
6. York (Imphal Barracks)
7. Stafford
8. St. Athan
9. Bicester
10. Northolt
11. Aldermaston
12. Foxhill
13. Larkhill

14. Portsmouth
15. Gosport
16. Bordon
17. Devonport
18. Aldershot Garrison

Defence Community Police Officers by Division

Scotland

1. Aldergrove
2. Abercorn Barracks (Ballykinler)
3. Churchill Estate (Clyde)
4. Condor
5. Edinburgh
6. Inverness
7. Glencorse Barracks
8. Palace Barracks

North-East

1. Albemarle Barracks
2. Bassingbourn Barracks
3. Chester
4. Colchester
5. Coningsby
6. Croughton
7. Harrogate
8. Mildenhall
9. Leconfield
10. Leeming
11. Menwith Hill
12. Preston
13. Wattisham
14. Wittering
15. York

South-East

1. Aldershot
2. Andover
3. Arborfield
4. Benson
5. Bicester
6. Brize Norton
7. Chatham
8. Deepcut
9. Halton
10. London
11. Marchwood
12. Sandhurst
13. Shorncliffe
14. Winchester

Western

1. Abbey Wood
2. Blandford
3. Bovington
4. Bramcote
5. Brecon
6. Bulford
7. Corsham
8. Devonport
9. Donnington
10. Hereford
11. Innsworth
12. Larkhill
13. Lichfield
14. Lyneham
15. Poole
16. Raleigh
17. St. Athan
18. Salisbury Plain
19. Stafford
20. Tidworth
21. Tern Hill
22. Yeovilton
23. Valley
24. Warminster
25. Wilton

Military Targets

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what definition of the words *(a)* "infrastructure" and *(b)* "command and control" his Department uses when using such terms to describe military targets. [56720]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence does not use its own definition of 'infrastructure' and 'military command and control' to describe military targets. In both cases, The Oxford English Dictionary provides a reasonable definition for military purposes.

'Infrastructure' is 'the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities (e.g. buildings, roads, power supplies) needed for the operation of a(n) ... enterprise'. In this case, the 'enterprise' would be armed forces and any building or facilities that are dedicated to their use, or otherwise involved in directly enabling their operations, might be considered a legitimate target.

'Command and control' is defined as 'the running of an armed force or other organization'. Therefore any structure or capability that is involved in, or enables, the direction of armed forces might be considered as a command and control target.

Navy: Catering

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average daily cost to the public purse for food and drink for serving members of the Royal Navy at each rank on active service was in the latest period for which figures are available. [58152]

Mr Robathan: For Royal Navy (RN), Royal Marines (RM) and Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) personnel deployed at sea in the surface and sub-surface fleets, daily messing rates (DMR) are applied. DMRs are the cost of ingredients based upon bespoke ration scales; the rates are adjusted quarterly to reflect food cost inflation. DMRs cover the cost of providing ingredients for three meals a day including beverages, but exclude the cost of logistics or food preparation.

The current minimum DMR for personnel at sea is £2.46. All ranks receive the same rate, but the DMR is adjusted according to the number of personnel in the ship's company, and its role, which can raise the total DMR to a maximum of £3.36 per person per day.

The cost of food for RN, RM and RFA personnel deployed at sea in financial year 2010-11 was £15.9 million, an average daily cost of £43,560.

Public Expenditure: DFID

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to establish an inquiry into the unauthorised disclosure of his letter to the Prime Minister concerning the budget for the Department for International Development; and if he will make a statement. [57592]

Dr Fox: Internal action has been taken following allegations in the media. I am not prepared to comment further.

Space Technology: Surveillance

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the GEO-1 satellite will provide data to RAF Menwith Hill. [57166]

Nick Harvey: RAF Menwith Hill acts purely as a communications relay for GEO-1 satellite data. The data are not utilised on site.

St Helena: Airports

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make arrangements to provide extra passenger capacity on military flights between the UK and the Falkland Islands to assist personnel engaged in the construction of an airport on the island of St Helena to disembark on Ascension Island for onward sea connection; and if he will make a statement. [57352]

Nick Harvey: We make provision for civilian seating and freight capacity on the South Atlantic Airbridge, which operates from the UK, via Ascension Island, to the Falkland Islands in support of British Forces South Atlantic Islands.

We would expect in due course to accommodate any requirement relating to the construction of an airport on St Helena within this provision.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much he has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48289]

Mr Robathan: Funding provided through grants in aid to the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in each of the last five years for which figures are currently available is shown in the following table. A grant in aid is typically used to fund part or all of the administration costs of the recipient body.

Grant in aid

£

Body	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
RAF Museum	7,104,192	6,774,110	7,019,000	7,989,309	7,367,000
RAF Sports Control Board	83,000	—	65,865	149,837	288,387
Air Training Corps	[1]—	33,005	34,000	34,850	35,721
RAF Sports Board	[1]—	165,923	—	—	—
Royal British Legion Polish Ex-Servicemen	[1]—	81,567	141,000	120,000	110,181
Royal British Legion War Widows	[1]—	65,665	61,000	61,000	62,220
National Memorial Arboretum	[1]—	250,000	—	371,296	169,594
Skill Force	3,002,000	2,502,000	1,000,000	500,000	250,000
Victoria and George Cross Reunion Association	[1]—	30,000	—	40,000	—
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	31,643,000	32,392,094	34,199,339	36,601,286	47,844,871
Scott Polar Research Institute	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Armed Forces Memorial	[1]—	—	189,220	—	290,469
National Army Museum	4,871,546	5,292,879	5,489,000	5,734,850	5,515,222
Army Sports Control Board	404,000	307,245	417,195	434,032	425,744
Council of Voluntary Welfare Work	[1]—	125,469	80,448	85,273	77,793
Gurkha Welfare Trust	[1]—	679,010	988,000	1,077,000	938,000
Army Families Federation	[1]—	291,444	293,190	300,093	332,100
Council of the Reserve Forces and Cadets Associations	—	—	57,489,076	59,369,448	63,490,300
Royal Irish Home Service Benevolent Fund	—	—	—	—	124,179
Royal Hospital Chelsea	9,207,000	9,232,000	9,554,000	10,487,000	10,824,000
Fleet Air Arm Museum	579,063	593,724	614,000	631,000	[2]—
Royal Marine Museum	783,252	740,788	765,480	783,000	[2]—
Royal Navy Museum	1,025,044	895,502	873,000	1,045,000	[2]—
RN Submarine Museum	548,317	561,997	575,708	591,000	[2]—
National Museum of the Royal Navy	—	—	—	—	3,237,466
Naval Families Federation	[1]—	149,220	92,620	185,000	223,000
Royal Navy Marine Society and Sea Cadets	—	8,228,969	9,300,419	8,941,426	9,450,215
RN Sports Board	117,000	272,907	—	—	—

[1] Not available. [2] Funded through the National Museum of the Royal Navy.

We also provide funding to charities through grants (for specific purposes) and commercial contractual arrangements (for specific services). A breakdown of the expenditure incurred could be provided only at disproportionate cost as these funding mechanisms are delegated locally and we do not currently identify discretely those grants and contracts which relate to charities. Details of all new central Government contracts are, however, now available online at:

www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk

I will write to the hon. Member to provide information on grant in aid funding for 2010-11, and on currently planned funding over the spending review period (up to 2014-15), once the details have been finalised for all bodies, which should be before the Whitsun recess.

I apologise for the delay in answering this question.

Substantive answer from Andrew Robathan to Chris Ruane:

I undertook to write to you in response to your Parliamentary Question (Official Report of 9 May 2011, columns 974 to 976W) to provide the balance of information on the funding of charities by the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

The provisional outturn for 2010-11 and our current funding plans over the Spending Review period are shown for each body in the following table:

Body	*Grant in aid (£)* *2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
RAF Museum	7,552,000	7,700,000	7,900,000	8,100,000	8,300,00
Air Training Corps	36,614	37,155	38,083	39,036	40,012
RAF Sports Board	264,834	271,455	278,241	285,197	292,327
Royal British Legion Polish Ex-servicemen	80,000	150,000	154,000	158,000	162,000
Royal British Legion War Widows	—	—	16,000	18,000	18,000
National Memorial Arboretum	643,254	485,000	485,000	485,000	485,000
Victoria and George Cross Reunion Association	40,000	—	40,000	—	—
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	44,641,049	45,219,000	46,695,000	47,926,000	49,244,000
Scott Polar Research Institute	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
National Army Museum	6,312,403	5,600,000	5,700,000	5,900,000	6,000,000
Army Sports Control Board	458,960	481,000	481,000	481,000	481,000
Council of Voluntary Welfare Work	82,437	101,245	103,777	106,371	109,296
Gurkha Welfare Trust	1,421,000	1,172,000	1,190,000	1,208,000	1,226,000
Army Families Federation	366,558	350,000	355,000	360,000	365,000
Council of the Reserve Forces and Cadets Associations	62,758,836	63,820,000	65,398,000	67,050,000	68,894,188
Royal Irish Home Service Benevolent Fund	64,246	67,000	69,000	71,000	73,000
Royal Hospital Chelsea	10,838,000	11,109,175	11,386,579	11,671,369	11,992,332
National Museum of the Royal Navy[1]	2,797,046	3,454,843	3,309,825	3,409,365	3,235,178
Naval Families Federation	248,601	235,215	241,096	247,123	253,301
Royal Navy Society and Sea Cadets	9,224,094	9,214,527	9,444,890	9,681,012	9,947,240

[1] The National Museum of the Royal Navy provides funding to the Fleet Air Museum, the Royal Marines Museum, the Royal Navy Museum and the Royal Navy Submarine Museum.

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, *(c)* the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency, *(d)* the Defence Support Group, *(e)* the Defence Vetting Agency, *(f)* the Met Office, *(g)* the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency, *(h)* the People, Pay and Pensions Agency, *(i)* Service Children's Education, *(j)* the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency and *(k)* the UK Hydrographic Office are entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56438]

Mr Robathan: In common with many major employers the Ministry of Defence (MOD) makes certain facilities available to civilian employees who are accredited representatives or members, but not paid officials of trade unions (TUs).

The information requested is provided in the following table. It is not possible to give a breakdown of numbers whose salaries are more than £25,900 annually.

	Number of reps on 100%	*Number of reps on less than 100%*	*Cost (£ million)*
Department including: Defence Storage and Distribution Agency Defence Vetting Agency Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency People, Pay and Pensions Agency Service Children's Education and Service Personnel and Veterans Agency	66	321	4.016
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	1	35	0.282
Defence Support Group	2	73	0.323
Met Office	1	11	0.073
UK Hydrographic Office	0	25	0.091

The figures for Defence Storage and Distribution Agency, Defence Vetting Agency, MOD Police and Guarding Agency, People, Pay and Pensions Agency, Services Children's Education and Service Personnel and Veterans Agency cannot be broken down separately but are contained within the Department figure.

The figure for representatives on less than 100% includes individuals who may be on as low a figure as 1%—i.e. they attend a routine management meeting or a specific conference. Within the *321* figure shown against the Department, 151 of the individuals are on less than 10% facility time.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office paid in *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs and *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against it in which the claimant was successful or the Office settled in each year since its inception. [54628]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office would show such payments as special payments in its resource accounts. Figures for 2010-11 will be provided in the Government Equality Office's 2010-11 resource accounts to be published in July this year.

Government Equalities Office: Equality and Human Rights

Mr Raab: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many employees of *(a)* the Government Equalities Office and *(b)* the Equality and Human Rights Commission earn an annual salary of over (A) £142,500, (B) £65,738 and (C) £25,900. [56247]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 18 May 2011]:* The figures requested for permanent employees of the Government Equalities Office (GEO) and the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) are in the table. Additional salary data for these organisations will be made available shortly on www.data.gov.uk

	Organisation	
	GEO	*EHRC*
Annual salary over £142,500	0	0
Annual salary over £65,738	10	15
Annual salary over £25,900	87	322

Homophobia: Transphobia

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps Ministers in the Government Equalities Office took to mark International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia on 17 May 2011. [57500]

Lynne Featherstone: I delivered a video message of support on International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia on 17 May 2011, along with the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne). The messages are available on the Government Equalities Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office websites and have been circulated to stakeholders.

Our messages reiterated the Government's commitment to advance lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality, both domestically and internationally, and set out the Government's programme of work in this field.

WALES

Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps she is taking to encourage charitable giving by Ministers in her Department. [57130]

Mr David Jones: All Government Ministers have pledged to undertake a 'one day challenge' with a charity or community group of their choice. This is a clear and public commitment by Ministers to give their time to help others. The pledge aims to inspire others to consider how they might be able to support their communities to benefit themselves, as well as their chosen organisations.

Departmental Equality

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what account she has taken of the effects of income inequality in the *(a)* formulation and *(b)* implementation of policy. [57149]

Mr David Jones: The Government are committed to addressing income disparity between different parts of the United Kingdom. It is, however, for individual Departments to undertake appropriate equality impact assessments for individual policies during development.

It is regrettable that so much of the pre-recession growth was focused on London and the South East leaving Wales with an average gross disposable household income per head of £13,484, 22% lower than the South East of England.

Measures such as our national insurance holiday for new businesses, and the creation of enterprise zones in areas of high growth potential have the potential to address this disparity.

The Wales Office will continue to work with other Government Departments and the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure Wales fully benefits from policies that encourage growth.

Departmental Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data her Department has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months; and what such research and data collection exercises undertaken by the Department have not been amended in that period. [56768]

Mr David Jones: Over the last 12 months the Department has initiated two pieces of research on the economic situation in Wales. Both pieces of research were delivered at no cost to the Department.

Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many requests she received between 6 May and 20 May 2011 to meet members of the Welsh Government; and on what matters. [57468]

Mrs Gillan: No such representations have been received.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Equality

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what account he has taken of the effects of income inequality in the *(a)* formulation and *(b)* implementation of policy. [57150]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office is responsible for the policy governing the devolution settlement in Scotland as provided for in the Scotland Act 1998. A regulatory impact assessment of the Scotland Bill currently before Parliament was undertaken prior to its introduction and is available on the Scotland Office website. Among other things it includes information on the likely costs, benefits and impact of the key proposals based on the available evidence.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to encourage charitable giving by Ministers in his Department. [57129]

Mr Paterson: While I am happy to encourage charitable giving, this is a matter of personal choice and I am content to leave such issues to the individual.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Prosecutions: Rape

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Attorney-General how many successful prosecutions for rape there have been in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [57732]

The Solicitor-General: I am responding to this question using the records maintained by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). The Ministry of Justice maintains separate data relating to rape prosecutions.

The CPS records show that the number of defendants successfully prosecuted for offences of rape in each of the last three years was as follows:

	Number
2008-09	2,018
2009-10	2,270
2010-11	2,465

These figures represent the number of defendants prosecuted by the CPS for offences of rape whose case was completed in each of the last three years ending March.

Rape is defined by the CPS as any offence from the following list:

Rape: SI Sexual Offences Act 1956

Sexual intercourse with a girl under the age of 13: S5 Sexual Offences Act 1956

An attempt to commit one of the above offences under the Criminal Attempts Act 1981

Rape: SI Sexual Offences Act 2003

Rape of a child under 13: S5 Sexual Offences Act 2003

Sexual activity with a person with a mental disorder impeding choice: S30(3) Sexual Offences Act 2003

An attempt to commit one of the above offences under the Criminal Attempts Act 1981

Incitement or conspiracy to commit any of the above offences.

Where a case identified in CPS records as one of rape results in conviction on a lesser charge, the outcome of proceedings is still recorded as a conviction for rape.

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Attorney-General how many staff of the Crown Prosecution Service were entitled to work *(a)* full-time as trade union representatives and *(b)* part-time on trade union activities in 2010-11; how many such staff were paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse was of employing such staff on such duties. [58133]

The Solicitor-General: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to his written question 56434 on 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 376-77W.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Systems

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he plans to bring forward further proposals for changes to the electoral system for the House of Commons; and if he will make a statement. [57504]

Mr Harper: The coalition's programme for government set out the Government's intention to hold a referendum on whether to adopt the alternative vote for elections to the House of Commons. This commitment has been met with a referendum on the voting system on 5 May 2011. The Government have no plans to bring forward further such proposals in this Parliament.

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he is preparing legislation or draft legislation on the extension of the franchise to prisoners; whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals on such an extension within the next six months; and if he will make a statement. [57547]

Mr Harper: The Government asked the European Court of Human Rights to reconsider its recent judgment on prisoner voting rights (known as "Greens and MT") and were disappointed that the request was refused. The UK has six months from the date of the judgment becoming final to bring forward legislative proposals to amend the law on prisoner voting. The Government are considering the next steps.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Equality

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account he has taken of the effects of income inequality in the *(a)* formulation and *(b)* implementation of policy. [57155]

Robert Neill: My Department follows Government guidance as set out in HM Treasury's Green Book. This includes, where appropriate, assessing possible distributional impacts of policies.

Energy Performance Certificates

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the moratorium on new regulation from April 2011 for businesses with fewer than 10 people applies to the proposed requirement for holiday lets to have energy performance certificates. [56942]

Andrew Stunell: The moratorium will not apply to the requirements in respect of holiday lets and energy performance certificates as this obligation flows from the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. Regulations that implement European Union legislation are exempt from the moratorium.

Fire Services: Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff of each fire service are entitled to work *(a)* full-time as trade union representatives and *(b)* part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 per annum; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56455]

Robert Neill: Fire and rescue authorities, in their role as employers, are responsible for the decisions about how to manage their work force, interact with local trade unions and ensure value for money for the taxpayer.

However, I am aware of the public and parliamentary concern expressed in recent weeks over trade union officials paid for from the public purse.

The coalition Government's transparency agenda will help ensure that cash payments to trade unions and the titles of staff posts in local government are open to public scrutiny.

At a time when all local authorities need to make sensible savings to help pay off the budget deficit, councillors will rightly wish to review the merits of (full-time) union officials funded by the taxpayer and the provision of the office facilities to trade unions.

Government Procurement Card

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by his Department using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [57175]

Robert Neill: The details of GPC transactions for (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10 have been deposited in the Library of the House. This includes *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)*supplier; *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction details are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Each transaction does have a merchant category which is a broad description of the type of goods purchased.

This disclosure illustrates the need for greater transparency and scrutiny of spending via the Government Procurement Card.

Homelessness

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanism he plans to put in place to ensure that provision of services for homeless people remains a priority for local authorities under the provisions of the Localism Bill. [57717]

Grant Shapps: The reforms in the Localism Bill will assist councils in providing a robust safety net for the homeless. Local housing authorities will still be required to secure suitable accommodation for households who are eligible for assistance, homeless through no fault of their own and in 'priority need' (eg families that include a dependant child or pregnant woman and people who are vulnerable for some reason).

The proposed homelessness provisions in the Localism Bill provide local authorities with additional flexibility so that they can also bring the duty to an end with an offer of accommodation in the private rented sector without requiring the applicant's agreement.

We are putting additional protection in place for those provided with private rented accommodation ensuring the tenancy must be for a fixed term of at least 12 months and the homelessness duty will recur if the applicant becomes homeless again within two years through no fault of their own, regardless of whether they still have priority need.

We have maintained the level of investment in homelessness grant for local authorities and the voluntary sector, with provision of £400 million in total over the next four years. We have established a new cross-Government working group on homelessness, bringing together Ministers from eight Government Departments, working with Local Government Association as well as voluntary sector partners to address the complex and multiple causes of homelessness and rough sleeping.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment the Cross-Departmental Homeless Working Group has made of the effects of the big society initiative on the provision of local services for homeless people [57719]

Grant Shapps: The most successful action to tackle homelessness is strongly rooted in local communities. The voluntary and community sector is instrumental at local level in tackling rough sleeping, often in direct response to local concerns about the visibility of the problem. The best local authority homelessness prevention services are shaped around local need. This is an example of the big society in action.

The Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness brings together eight Departments to address the complex causes and improve support for homeless people. The Ministerial Working Group is working with local government and voluntary sector partners to remove bureaucratic barriers, giving communities greater freedom to do what works best in their areas.

The Government have maintained the Homelessness Grant, investing £400 million over the next four years. £6.5 billion was allocated to Supporting People for the spending review period, with councils facing a less than 1% average cash reduction per year.

Housing: Construction

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* private sector and *(b)* public sector housing starts there were in the Peterborough city council area in the first quarter of 2011. [57334]

Andrew Stunell: There were 205 private sector housing starts and nine public sector housing starts in the Peterborough city council area in the first quarter of 2011.

The sources for these figures are the P2 local authority house building return and data from the National House-Building Council (NHBC). These are collected as part of the production of the Department for Communities and Local Government's National Statistics on house building in England, which can be found at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housebuilding/

Landlords: Complaints

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the number of complaints about landlords made to local authorities in each of the last three years. [57583]

Andrew Stunell: This information is not held centrally.

Landlords: Prosecutions

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many prosecutions there were of landlords for an offence under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the latest period for which figures are available. [57501]

Andrew Stunell: This information is not held by central Government.

Local Government

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers are available to police in relation to disorder in public galleries at council meetings open to the public. [52301]

James Brokenshire: I have been asked to reply.

The police have a number of powers that could be used in relation to disorder in public galleries at council meetings, including powers to prevent a breach of the peace, and powers in the Public Order Act 1986.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities in England have responsibility for housing. [57595]

Andrew Stunell: All local housing authorities in England with a housing stock of 50 or more houses are required to keep a housing revenue account. There are currently 170 local authorities with active housing revenue accounts.

An authority with fewer than 50 dwellings is not required to maintain a separate record and these are not tracked in official statistics; in addition any dwelling that is tied to a particular job, such as wardens' or keepers' cottages, is not included and may be provided by authorities that otherwise do not maintain housing stock.

Mayors: Birmingham

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of establishing arrangements for a shadow mayor in Birmingham; and what proportion of the cost will be funded through council tax payments in Birmingham; [57233]

(2) if he will refund the costs associated with the creation of a shadow mayor in Birmingham in the case where mayoral government arrangements are rejected in a referendum taking place after a period of mayoral government. [57235]

Robert Neill: As the Impact Assessment 'Creating executive mayors in the 12 largest English cities', published on 17 January 2011, explains, the cost to a local authority of moving to a shadow mayor is expected to be negligible.

The Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell), indicated to the House at Report stage of the Localism Bill that we would listen carefully to the points made on such issues as shadow mayors and we are now reflecting on what we have heard and intend to come back to these matters when the Bill is considered in the Other Place.

I do not believe such a move would change the overall administrative costs of the local authority.

Sheltered Housing

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received on measures to enable residents in care villages or similarly-managed properties to hold management companies to account; and if he will make a statement. [57022]

Grant Shapps: We have received over 100 letters following a campaign led by the Campaign Against Residential Leasehold Exploitation (CarlEX) questioning the balance of rights between leaseholders and landlords.

Leaseholders have a number of rights which allow them to hold management companies and landlords to account. These include the ability to challenge the reasonableness of service charges and in some cases, subject to certain criteria, seek the appointment of a new manager at a Leasehold Valuation Tribunal, or take over management and employ their own agent.

We recognise that where problems arise over leaseholders' homes—especially about the actions of managing agents—these can cause real inconvenience and, in some cases, lead to significant distress. We are therefore actively thinking about the issue and do not rule out making other changes. We have also asked senior officials to meet as a priority with some representatives of the CarlEX campaign to hear more about the issues highlighted in the campaign.

EDUCATION

Arts: Education

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the role of art as a subject in the *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary curriculum. [57572]

Mr Gibb: We believe that the arts in general can play an important part in raising standards, changing attitudes towards education, improving behaviour and the quality of teaching. Decisions about the status of art and design as a national curriculum subject will be made as part of the review of the national curriculum. We have recently completed a call for evidence which attracted a very high number of responses across the range of national curriculum subjects. We will be considering those views, along with other evidence, before announcing our proposals early next year.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of demand for newly-qualified specialist art teachers in each of the next three academic years. [57650]

Mr Gibb: The number of teachers who schools employ in future years will, as now, be a matter for head teachers and governing bodies of schools to decide, according to local needs and subject to statutory requirements on class sizes where appropriate.

It is our intention to ensure that enough suitably qualified teachers are available to meet the needs of schools. The targets for recruitment to initial teacher training courses were calculated and issued on this basis.

The latest recruitment targets have been published in Table A3 at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000927/sfr11-2010ittv2.xls

This shows that in 2011/12 there will be around 320 secondary initial teacher training places specialising in art.

Recruitment targets beyond 2011/12 have not yet been made.

Children: Communication Skills

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the merits of developing commissioning guidance for head teachers on support for children with speech, language and communication needs. [56214]

Sarah Teather: The Inclusion Development Programme, which provides in-service training for serving teachers, includes a specific module on speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). These materials were updated earlier this year and made widely available to local authorities and school through the distribution of DVD training packages.

On 9 March we published our Green Paper, 'Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability'. The Green Paper proposes a package of reforms aimed to ensure children's needs (including SLCN) are identified early and that the right support is put in place to help all children make progress at school and reach their full potential. There is now a period of consultation on the Green Paper, which closes on 30 June. We will be considering all responses received during the consultation period in determining how we take our proposals forward.

Children: Hearing Impairment

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what financial support his Department *(a)* has provided in each of the last three years and *(b)* plans to provide in 2011-12 and 2012-13 for social care services available to deaf children and their families in Walsall. [56360]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* Funding data specifically for social care services available to deaf children and their families are not collected by the Department. However, the available information on the net expenditure planned by Walsall local authority on the provision of education for pupils with special educational needs in the last three years is shown in the following table:

Planned (net) provision for pupils with SEN in Walsall

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Walsall	2,194,262	2,826,359	3,272,071

The Department is currently collecting the s251 Budget data for the 2011-12 financial year. The information will not be publicly available until later in the year when it will be published as Official Statistics.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what financial support his Department *(a)* has provided in each of the last three years and *(b)* plans to provide in 2011-12 and 2012-13 for school transport services for children with special educational needs in Walsall. [56364]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* The information requested is not available. Home-to-school transport, including transport for children with special educational needs, is funded through a combination of Revenue Support Grant, paid by the Department for Communities and Local Government, and locally determined council tax.

The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), recently allocated £38 million for 2011-12 and £47 million for 2012-13 for extended rights to transport for pupils from low income families. Walsall local authority received an allocation of £30,504 and £37,846. Pupils with special educational needs will be eligible to free school travel if they meet the criteria of the extended rights duty.

Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Children Review

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to publish the Bailey Report on the Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Childhood. [58166]

Sarah Teather: The report by Reg Bailey, following his independent review of the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood, "Letting Children be Children", was published as a Command Paper on 6 June. The Government's response will be made to Parliament as a written ministerial statement today. Copies of the report have been placed in the House Libraries.

As requested, Mr Bailey has made a number of robust and challenging recommendations designed to address the problems of excessive commercialisation and premature sexualisation in childhood. Implementation of his recommendations, which have been directed to businesses, trade associations, regulators and Government, will reduce the pressure on children to grow up too fast. The Government have accepted all his recommendations. We will, as Mr Bailey also recommends, take stock of progress in 18 months time and consider what further measures may need to be taken to achieve the recommended outcomes.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanism his Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55893]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not have any construction contracts and has not implemented any specific mechanisms to take account of the requirements of the Fair Payment guidance. However, for all contracts, the Department has implemented a prompt payment policy with a 10-day target for payment which is a shorter time scale than the 14 days recommended in the Fair Payment guidance. For the period between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011, 94% of invoices were paid within the 10 day target. The Department's contractual requirement is to pay invoices within 30 days and for the period mentioned above 99% were paid within that deadline.

A clause is included in all contracts requiring payment to be made of all sums due by a contractor to a sub-contractor within a specified period not exceeding 30 days from the receipt of a valid invoice.

Departmental Equality

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what account he has taken of the effects of income inequality in the *(a)* formulation and *(b)* implementation of policy. [57154]

Mr Gibb: The Government have made a clear commitment to improving the achievement and life chances of children from deprived backgrounds via a £7 billion Fairness Premium. This includes support for disadvantaged two year olds, a pupil premium to help poorer pupils and reforms to higher education.

We published our social mobility strategy on 5 April 2011. "Opening Doors, Breaking Barriers" focuses on inter-generational social mobility and; ensuring that everyone has a fair chance to succeed, regardless of their background. It aims to tackle inequality of opportunity at every stage of life with measures to improve social mobility from the foundation years to school, transition years and adulthood.

The Government also published their child poverty strategy on 5 April 2011. "Tackling the causes of disadvantage and transforming families' lives" sets out a new approach to tackling child poverty for this Parliament and up to 2020. At its core is strengthening families, encouraging responsibility, promoting work, guaranteeing fairness, and providing support to the most vulnerable.

The Pupil Premium was introduced from 1 April 2011 and is at the heart of the Government's school reform programme. It will enable pupils from low income families to receive the support they need to reach their full potential and to help schools reduce educational inequalities. Rising to £2.5 billion a year by 2014-15, the Pupil Premium is additional funding specifically designed to boost the attainment of poorer children.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56102]

Tim Loughton: The information is as follows:

(a) Special advisers are not entitled to the use of a Government car. However, there are occasions when it is necessary to travel in one whilst accompanying a Minister on official business.

(b & c) The total travel costs (excluding overseas travel) for special advisers at the Department for Education since May 2010 is £2,393. Information detailing the separate cost of taxi and rail travel by special advisers can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

(d) Special advisers at the Department for Education have not travelled by bus whilst on official business.

(e) Special advisers at the Department for Education have travelled by commercial aircraft whilst on Government business with my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education. The overall costs of all ministerial overseas visits for 2010-11 will be published in due course.

(f) Special advisers at the Department for Education have not travelled by private aircraft whilst on official business.

The use of official cars and taxis by civil servants, including special advisers, is governed by the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 423-4W, on independent review panels, on what basis his Department decides whether to pursue a very light-touch process or a more formal application and selection process; and if he will make a statement. [57167]

Tim Loughton: The Department follows the principles and processes set out in the Commissioner for Public Appointments' code of practice

http://www.publicappointmentscommissioner.org/codeofpractice/

The code of practice does not require the Department to apply the full process set out in the code to posts that fall outside of the Commissioner's remit, and where this is the case a light touch process may be undertaken.

A more formal application and selection process would be undertaken where the post is remunerated.

Discretionary Learner Support Fund: Cornwall

Sarah Newton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much of the Discretionary Support Fund will be allocated to Cornwall. [57253]

Mr Gibb: We are finalising details of the allocations for the 16-19 Bursary Fund following the consultation on the new arrangements, which closed on 20 May. The Young People's Learning Agency will issue allocations to schools, colleges and training providers in June.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects of the withdrawal of education maintenance allowance on young people from *(a)* ethnic minorities and *(b)* lone parent families; and if he will make a statement. [56516]

Mr Gibb: The equality impact assessment for the ending of education maintenance allowance and the introduction of the 16-19 Bursary funding is available on the Department for Education website:

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/1/ema%20replacement%20scheme%20%20%20equality%20impact%20assessment.pdf

We will monitor and evaluate the impact of the introduction of the new fund, including with reference to levels of support by disability, ethnicity, gender and other characteristics.

Education: Children's Service

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on the headcount of each local authority education and children's service; and under what categories such data are held. [56377]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not collect information on the overall number of staff employed by local authorities for the provision of education and children's services. However, information on the number of school staff is provided to the Department through the annual School Workforce Census (SWF) return.

The table provides the headcount of staff employed in local authority maintained schools and those staff employed centrally by local authorities who spend the majority of their time in schools, as of November 2010. Other staff who are employed centrally for the provision of education and other children's services are not included, except educational psychologists. The categories in the table may be disaggregated further into job roles where these have been provided.

Further information on the overall number of staff employed by local authorities in the education sector is published by the Office for National Statistics. The Public Sector Employment Statistical Bulletin is available at the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=13615&Pos=&ColRank+1&Rank+422

Headcount of regular teachers, teaching assistants, support staff, auxiliary staff and educational psychologists in service in local authority maintained schools in each local authority, year: November 2010, coverage: England

Local authority	*Teachers*[1]	*Teaching assistants*[2]	*Support staff*[3]	*Auxiliary staff*[4]	*Educational Psychologists*
Barking and Dagenham	2,170	1,090	670	1,580	n/a
Barnet	3,460	2,180	1,600	1,460	20
Barnsley	1,850	1,440	790	1,730	10
Bath and North East Somerset	1,660	1,060	630	790	n/a
Bedford Borough	1,730	1,090	760	1,070	10
Bexley	2,090	1,380	920	980	10
Birmingham	11,160	6,940	4,160	9,040	60
Blackburn with Darwen	1,580	1,420	1,210	480	10
Blackpool	1,250	850	840	410	10
Bolton	2,570	1,830	920	940	10
Bournemouth	1,250	840	450	620	10
Bracknell Forest	880	670	380	480	10
Bradford	5,150	4,270	2,110	2,570	n/a
Brent	2,680	1,430	880	970	10
Brighton and Hove	2,150	1,580	780	1,010	20
Bristol City of	2,850	1,740	1,310	1,260	n/a
Bromley	2,840	1,910	930	1,110	n/a
Buckinghamshire	5,510	3,240	1,820	1,980	30
Bury	1,640	1,330	450	750	10
Calderdale	2,100	1,520	870	1,230	10
Cambridgeshire	4,900	4,000	2,080	3,700	20
Camden	1,610	1,020	580	700	20
Central Bedfordshire	3,050	1,680	1,240	1,550	10
Cheshire East	3,080	1.930	880	1,900	10
Cheshire West and Chester	3,030	1,650	830	1,690	20
City of London	20	20	10	•	•
Cornwall	4,800	4,190	1,540	2,040	20
Coventry	3,250	1,790	1,330	2,120	10
Croydon	2,900	2,100	1,010	1,600	20
Cumbria	4,250	2,230	1,370	1,660	20
Darlington	830	570	270	380	10
Derby	2,000	1,560	680	1,020	•
Derbyshire	6,720	4,720	2,430	5,460	30
Devon	6,340	5,100	2,590	4,580	40
Doncaster	2,630	3,540	1,870	3,690	10
Dorset	3,700	2,640	1,260	1,840	20
Dudley	3,020	2,780	1,150	1,870	n/a
Durham	4,630	2,340	1,550	2,830	10
Ealing	2,840	1,550	990	1,390	20
East Riding of Yorkshire	2,970	2,270	1,210	1,870	10
East Sussex	4,140	3,280	1,680	2,180	20
Enfield	2,970	1,990	1,070	870	20
Essex	11,650	8,810	5,120	7,330	40
Gateshead	1,820	870	490	1,010	30
Gloucestershire	6,070	3,870	1,900	2,920	20
Greenwich	2,520	2,030	1,090	970	20
Hackney	1,620	1,130	640	810	20
Halton	1,140	630	360	920	10

Headcount of regular teachers, teaching assistants, support staff, auxiliary staff and educational psychologists in service in local authority maintained schools in each local authority, year: November 2010, coverage: England

Local authority	*Teachers*[1]	*Teaching assistants*[2]	*Support staff*[3]	*Auxiliary staff*[4]	*Educational Psychologists*
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,230	610	510	290	10
Hampshire	10,810	6,980	3,670	5,990	70
Haringey	2,350	1,380	1,100	1,420	10
Harrow	2,030	1,280	790	1,170	10
Hartlepool	940	800	320	790	10
Havering	2,360	1,660	880	1,450	10
Herefordshire	1,350	1,070	460	710	10
Hertfordshire	12,560	7,080	4,660	5,150	60
Hillingdon	2,710	1,900	1,070	1,300	20
Hounslow	2,320	1,090	780	1,090	10
Isle of Wight	1,220	1,020	610	720	•
Isles of Scilly	40	30	10	20	n/a
Islington	1,470	990	720	600	20
Kensington and Chelsea	760	530	340	300	10
Kent	13,230	9,860	4,520	5,570	50
Kingston Upon Hull City of	2,150	1,860	680	930	n/a
Kingston upon Thames	1,590	850	660	580	n/a
Kirklees	3,980	2,550	1,440	2,910	20
Knowsley	1,410	1,080	500	400	10
Lambeth	2,170	1,550	760	470	20
Lancashire	10,770	9,580	5,610	4,200	50
Leeds	6,520	5,110	2,250	3,470	40
Leicester	3,050	2,430	1,090	1,890	20
Leicestershire	6,200	4,410	3,000	3,640	20
Lewisham	1,750	1,310	710	750	n/a
Lincolnshire	5,710	4,620	2,230	3,200	30
Liverpool	4,050	1,810	1,240	1,830	20
Luton	1,880	1,780	910	1,590	10
Manchester	3,990	2,630	2,490	2.360	20
Medway	2,140	1,720	870	1,080	20
Merton	1,390	920	630	540	10
Middlesbrough	1,080	900	670	470	n/a
Milton Keynes	2,630	2,020	1,010	1,450	20
Newcastle upon Tyne	2,350	1,280	780	1,810	20
Newham	3,100	2,220	1,120	1,890	10
Norfolk	6,780	6,140	2,450	4,480	n/a
North East Lincolnshire	960	1,030	380	820	10
North Lincolnshire	1,380	1,150	510	1,360	10
North Somerset	1,840	1,130	510	590	10
North Tyneside	2,000	800	600	1,240	10
North Yorkshire	4,840	3,130	2,070	4,310	30
Northamptonshire	6,360	5,410	3,230	3,210	30
Northumberland	3,570	1,750	830	1,960	20
Nottingham	2,160	1,660	710	1,030	n/a
Nottinghamshire	7,420	4,170	2,640	5,300	30
Oldham	2,210	1,780	670	900	10
Oxfordshire	5,820	4,650	2,220	2,690	20
Peterborough	1,520	1,460	600	1,120	10
Plymouth	2,360	2,030	1,030	1,570	20
Poole	1,130	780	540	640	n/a
Portsmouth	1,540	1,310	640	820	10
Reading	1,090	880	530	570	10
Redbridge	3,100	1,670	1,120	1,100	10
Redcar and Cleveland	1,360	950	520	1,140	10
Richmond upon Thames	1,130	690	450	240	10
Rochdale	1,940	1,760	650	1,350	10
Rotherham	2,560	2,030	940	990	10
Rutland	290	190	160	120	•
Salford	1,360	140	110	30	n/a
Sandwell	2,770	2,380	820	2,240	20
Sefton	2,710	1,810	940	1,030	n/a
Sheffield	4,380	2,950	1,580	2,060	20
Shropshire	2,980	2,500	910	2,400	n/a
Slough	1.570	1,030	710	560	10
Solihull	1,930	1,320	590	1,210	10
Somerset	4,320	4,080	1,830	2,700	30
South Gloucestershire	2,350	1,370	690	1,590	10
South Tyneside	1,050	550	380	1,010	10
Southampton	1,670	1,320	600	870	10
Southend-on-Sea	1,840	1,140	740	940	•
Southwark	1,630	1,570	590	920	20
St Helens	1,340	960	340	460	n/a
Staffordshire	7,660	4,810	3,050	6,640	30
Stockport	2,560	1,750	940	1,380	20
Stockton-on-Tees	1,710	1,130	420	1,360	10
Stoke-on-Trent	2,040	1,380	1,240	2,060	40
Suffolk	6,850	4,750	2,750	4,850	30
Sunderland	2,630	1,740	1,020	1,150	10
Surrey	9,160	7,160	3,920	4,480	50
Sutton	2,120	1,080	670	820	10
Swindon	1,770	1,560	660	1,070	40
Tameside	1,850	1,110	830	1,410	10
Telford and Wrekin	1,190	1,300	630	740	n/a
Thurrock	1,180	880	520	590	n/a
Torbay	1,180	860	520	640	10
Tower Hamlets	3,030	2,190	1,220	1,540	30
Trafford	2,030	990	590	710	10
Wakefield	2,840	2,320	1,270	2,490	n/a
Walsall	2,550	1,940	980	1,240	10
Waltham Forest	2,360	1,450	920	1,380	20
Wandsworth	2,220	1,750	920	650	20
Warrington	2,020	1,240	620	1,380	10
Warwickshire	5,010	3,400	1,610	3,660	20
West Berkshire	1,800	1,420	760	750	n/a
West Sussex	6,970	4,640	3,500	3,060	40
Westminster	1,210	720	350	340	10
Wigan	3,150	3,340	980	330	10
Wiltshire	4,240	3,100	1,720	1,990	30
Windsor and Maidenhead	1,300	940	650	640	n/a
Wirral	3,310	1,760	1,080	1,350	n/a
Wokingham	1,620	1,280	640	740	n/a
Wolverhampton	2,420	1,340	960	1,850	20
Worcestershire	5,270	4,400	1,850	2,990	•
York	1,450	780	380	390	10

Headcount of regular teachers, teaching assistants, support staff, auxiliary staff and educational psychologists in service in local authority maintained schools in each local authority, year: November 2010, coverage: England

Local authority	*Teachers*[1]	*Teaching assistants*[2]	*Support staff*[3]	*Auxiliary staff*[4]	*Educational Psychologists*
England	470,230	333,140	181,610	261,550	n/a

n/a = Not available.
* = Nil or negligible.
[1] Includes full and part-time, qualified and unqualified teachers.
[2] Includes higher level teaching assistants, nursery nurses, nursery assistants, literacy and numeracy support staff and any other non-teaching staff regularly employed to support teachers in the classroom, special needs support staff and minority ethnic pupil support staff.
[3] Includes administrative staff (e.g. secretaries, bursars and other admin/clerical staff), technicians (e.g. laboratory assistants, design technology assistants, home economics and craft technicians and IT technicians), other support staff (e.g. matrons/nurses/medical staff, child care staff and other education support staff).
[4] These staff are employed in posts that were not previously collected. Examples of staff included are those employed in catering and school maintenance.
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Workforce Census

Educational Visits

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what *(a)* time-series data and *(b)* information his Department holds on the number of (i) school trips which have taken place and (ii) children who have participated in school trips. [56378]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education neither collects such data nor makes related estimates.

First Aid: Curriculum

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 968W, on secondary education: first aid, whether his Department will bring forward proposals to include training of pupils in cardiopulmonary resuscitation in the national curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [57917]

Mr Gibb: The non-statutory framework for personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education includes teaching young people to develop the skills to cope with emergency situations that require basic first aid procedures, including, at key stage 4 (age 15 to 16), resuscitation techniques.

The non-statutory elements of PSHE education are not covered by our review of the national curriculum. However, as signalled in the White Paper, we intend to conduct a separate, internal, review to determine how we can support schools to improve the quality of PSHE teaching, including giving teachers the flexibility to use their judgment about how best to deliver PSHE education. More details will be announced shortly.

Free School Meals

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what measures of deprivation his Department uses in its segmented analysis of achievement at school other than the proportion of children entitled to free school meals. [56386]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education uses two indicators of deprivation in addition to free school meals. These are the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), which were produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government. The most recent version of the IMD was released by the Department for Communities and Local Government in December 2010.

IMD is a Lower-layer Super Output Area (LSOA) level measure of multiple deprivation and is made up of seven LSOA level domain indices. There are also two supplementary indices (Income Deprivation Affecting Children and Income Deprivation Affecting Older People). LSOAs in England are ranked from one to 32,482, where one is the most deprived.

With the introduction of the Pupil Premium, for pupils known to be eligible for free school meals and for looked after children, the measure of deprivation is being extended to include both these groups of pupils.

Free Schools

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 966W, on free schools, what school size or capacity has been specified in each application to establish a free school submitted to his Department to date. [55969]

Mr Gibb: The Department had received over 300 applications at the close of the initial application round in February 2011. The size of the proposed Free Schools varied substantially with the average number of pupil places being around 300.

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many free schools he expects to open in September 2011; how many applications are being processed; and how many further expressions of interest have been registered with his Department. [57224]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 May 2011]:* To date, 32 proposals have been given approval to move to business case and plan stage and beyond, of which a number of schools will open in September 2011. The application process for proposed schools that hope to open in 2012 is now open. We expect to receive a large number of high quality applications.

GCE A-level

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many and what proportion of A-level students were entered for A-level *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English literature, *(c)* further mathematics, *(d)* biological sciences, *(e)* physics, *(f)* chemistry, *(g)* geography, *(h)* history and *(i)* at least one modern foreign language in (i) modern schools and (ii) other further education sector colleges (A) nationally and (B) in each local education authority area in the last year for which figures are available; [57309]

(2) how many and what proportion of A-level students were entered for at least three A-levels from *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English literature, *(c)* further mathematics, *(d)* biological sciences, *(e)* physics, *(f)* chemistry, *(g)* geography, *(h)* history and *(i)* a modern foreign language in (i) modern schools and (ii)

other further education sector colleges (A) nationally and (B) in each local education authority area in the last year for which figures are available. [57305]

(3) how many and what proportion of GCE A-level students were entered for GCE A-level in *(a)* accounting, *(b)* art and design, *(c)* business studies, *(d)* communication and culture, *(e)* dance, *(f)* design and technology, *(g)* drama/theatre studies, *(h)* electronics, *(i)* film studies, *(j)* home economics, *(k)* information and communication technology, *(l)* law, *(m)* media studies, *(n)* music technology, *(o)* sports studies, *(p)* travel and tourism and *(q)* environmental studies in (i) modern schools and (ii) other further education sector colleges (A) nationally and (B) in each local education authority area in the last year for which figures are available. [57304]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 May 2011]:* The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

Grammar Schools

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many grammar schools have *(a)* applied for, *(b)* converted to and *(c)* registered an interest in applying for academy status since 2005. [57231]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 May 2011]:* Since the Academies Act 2010 was passed, 116 grammar schools have applied to convert and 63 have converted to academy status. A list of all schools that have formally applied for academy status, as well as a list of academies that have opened in the academic year 2010/11, can be found on the DfE academies website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/academies/a0069811/schools-submitting-applications-and-academies-that-have-opened-in-201011

and this is updated monthly. The Department no longer publishes a list of mainstream schools that have expressed an interest in converting to academy status.

History and Geography: Secondary Education

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has assessed the merits of raising to 16 years the compulsory age to which history and geography must be taught. [58143]

Mr Gibb: We are currently reviewing the national curriculum in England, and as part of that will consider whether history and geography should be compulsory subjects within the national curriculum and, if so, at which key stages. We will be announcing our proposals early next year.

Primary Education: Training

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on training and continuing professional development for the primary school workforce. [56856]

Mr Gibb: The Government's policy on the training and continuing professional development of teachers is set out in the White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching" which was published on 24 November 2010.

In the White Paper we set out proposals to reform initial teacher training so that it focuses on key teaching skills including teaching early reading and mathematics, managing behaviour and responding to pupils' special educational needs. In particular for primary schools, proposals to improve the initial training of teachers in systematic synthetic phonics and develop more specialist teachers of mathematics.

We have said that we will create a new national network of teaching schools, on the model of teaching hospitals, giving outstanding schools the role of leading the training and professional development of teachers and head teachers so that all schools, including primary schools, have access to high quality professional and leadership development. We are also introducing a competitive national scholarship scheme to give teachers the opportunity to deepen their subject knowledge.

Pupils: Identification

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department issues to secondary schools on the wearing of identity badges by pupils. [56376]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education does not issue formal guidance on the wearing of identity badges by pupils. It is for schools to take such measures as they think are reasonable to keep the premises secure and the pupils and staff safe from intrusion.

Reading: Teaching Methods

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 61-2WS, on the Year 1 phonics screening check, how often his Department plans to update the list of approved phonics products and training; and if he will make a statement. [57169]

Mr Gibb: The process for reviewing publishers' self-assessments of phonics products against the Department's core criteria will continue until at least September 2011. We will consider whether to extend this process further.

Separately, a catalogue containing an approved list of products and training will be available in September 2011 following a procurement exercise. We expect to re-procure products and training for the catalogue by April 2012.

School Meals: Standards

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reason academies and free schools are to be exempted from the requirement to meet nutritional standards for school meals. [55817]

Mr Gibb: As part of the broader freedoms given to academies and free schools, we trust the professionals to act in the best interests of their pupils. I am not aware of any evidence that suggests that academies provide meals that are less nutritious than those provided in maintained schools.

Schools: Identification

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department issues to schools on the deployment of in-school identification and payment systems. [56379]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education has not issued any specific advice about identification and payment systems. Schools are expected to comply with data protection legislation and ensure the security of personal information. In 2008/09 Becta produced guidance on data security for schools. In 2007 they also developed guidance in liaison with the Information Commissioner's Office, for those schools choosing to use biometric authentication systems. This guidance remains valid.

The coalition agreement of May 2010 promised to outlaw the finger-printing of children at school without parental permission. The Government have introduced new legislation in the Protection of Freedoms Bill, currently going through Parliament, to regulate the use of biometric recognition systems in schools and colleges. The purpose of these provisions is to ensure that no children's biometric data are taken, in schools or colleges, without parental permission. The provisions would also give children the right to refuse to use biometric systems and ensure that alternatives are provided for children or their parents who opt out of using biometric technology. Subject to the passage through Parliament, the Department for Education will issue advice to schools making their duties under these provisions clear.

Schools: Information and Communications Technology

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure pupils have access to high quality ICT education and training in schools. [55968]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 May 2011]:* The Department has contracted with the Open University to provide a regional network of support centres delivering continuing professional development to both specialist ICT teachers and teachers of other subjects who use ICT. Additionally, the Department has provided access for schools to an online tool to guide their self-review and development in the use of ICT and has contracted with Naace, the professional association for ICT in schools, to continue delivery of 'ICT Mark' assessments to recognise schools that demonstrate excellence.

Schools: Newham

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what plans he has to ensure sufficient pupil places are available for residents of the London borough of Newham up to 2013; [53036]

(2) how many children in *(a)* the London borough of Newham and *(b)* London are being taught in temporary classrooms. [53037]

Mr Gibb: The Department has allocated £800 million of capital funding to local authorities in England for 2011-12 to provide additional pupil places (basic need). This is twice the previous annual level of support.

The Department collects information from each local authority on school capacity in maintained schools through an annual survey, which includes local authorities' own pupil forecasts. The most recent survey data relate to the position at May 2010 and is available on the Department for Education's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000982/index.shtml

The survey does not ask local authorities to report on the number of children being taught in temporary classrooms and this information is not held by the Department.

Schools: Nutrition

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the role of Ofsted will be in relation to the implementation of nutritional standards for school food for *(a)* academies, *(b)* free schools and *(c)* other schools. [57270]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 May 2011]:* The Government are committed to refocusing school inspection for maintained schools, academies and free schools, around the core areas of pupil achievement, teaching, leadership and behaviour, and safety. We have no plans to ask Ofsted to assess the implementation of nutritional standards for school food as part of this new inspection focus.

Governing bodies of maintained schools and local authorities are responsible for ensuring that school food meets the required standards. Parents are increasingly knowledgeable about the importance of healthy eating and are well placed to hold schools to account for this.

Free schools and academies, established since September 2010, are not required to comply with the school food standards, and are free to promote healthy eating and good nutrition as they see fit.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether free schools will be required to comply with nutritional standards for school food. [57330]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 May 2011]:* Free schools will not be required to comply with the nutritional standards for school food. They will be required to provide lunches where there is demand and free school meals to all pupils who are eligible and wish to take up their entitlement. We have no reason to believe that free schools will not provide healthy, balanced meals that meet the current nutritional standards. As part of the broader freedoms available to free schools, we trust the professionals to act in the best interests of their pupils.

Schools: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much per capita his Department spent on maintaining and improving state school premises in each of the last five years. [56479]

Mr Gibb: The following table shows how much capital funding the Department has spent per pupil in England since 2004-05. These figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19 and are in real terms.

Capital[1, 2] only funding per maintained school pupil[3], 2004-05 to 2010-11 (includes academies)

Funding per maintained pupil (£)

	2004-05 Actual	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Actual[4]	2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Actual	2010-11 Estimated outturn[5]
Real terms[6]	720	780	700	830	920	1,080	960
Real terms index[7]	100	108	97	115	128	150	133

[1] Figures are rounded to nearest £10.

[2] Includes capital budgets (drawn from annex C of 2009 departmental report) and PFI funding streams.

[3] Calculations are based on maintained sector full-time equivalent pupils (including academy pupils) aged three to 19 in England. Taken from the schools census as at January 2010. Figures exclude pupils in PVIs and alternative provision.

[4] The apparent drop in funding per pupil between 2005-06 and 2006-07 is caused by the transitional effect of a change in the funding mechanism for the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. This involves the re-phasing of payments to local authorities to better reflect the actual pattern of delivery on the ground. Any unspent capital from 2006-07 will be rolled forward to be used in future years, thereby ensuring that the BSF programme is fully delivered. This also applies to unspent capital in 2008-09, where end-year flexibility funds can be brought forward to 2009-11.

[5] Figures updated for PBR 2008 fiscal stimulus of £800 million capital funds moving from 2010-11 to 2009-10.

[6] Real terms figures have been calculated using the December 2010 gross domestic product deflators with 2009-10 as the base year.

[7] The real terms funding index has been based with 2004-05 as 100.

Secondary Education: Performance Standards

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of the C-grade threshold as used in performance measures for secondary schools. [53007]

Mr Gibb: The 2011 secondary school performance tables, to be published in January 2012, will be based on indicators which reflect the Government's priorities as announced in the Schools White Paper "The Importance of Teaching". We want to discourage schools from focusing on pupils on the C/D borderline to improve the school's standing in league tables. Performance tables will therefore include measures of pupil progress and average point scores which capture the full range of outcomes for all pupils. While we will continue to publish A-C indicators, we will also publish a wider range of information, in a supporting dataset, such as the percentage of pupils achieving A*-G in the English baccalaureate subjects and the percentage of pupils achieving 5+A*-G at GCSE or equivalent. Full details of the content of the 2011 performance tables will be published, later this term, in our annual statement of intent.

Reforming performance tables to increase flexibility and interrogative functions is part of our ambition to improve accountability and increase transparency. The objective is to create a fully flexible dataset that will allow parents, inspectors, governors and the public to challenge schools on their performance; support school improvement; and open up underlying data to allow users to create and compare the information of most importance to them.

Separation

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education to which *(a)* geographical areas and *(b)* organisations he plans to allocate the funding for relationship support services with respect to family separation in the next four years; and if he will make a statement. [57633]

Sarah Teather: In December 2010, the Prime Minister announced a dedicated fund of £30 million over the next four years to support couple relationships. The majority of this funding will be allocated to the voluntary and community sector (VCS) via the Department for Education's VCS Grants programme. To be considered for grant funding, organisations had to carry out work of national significance.

The successful organisations were announced on 25 February 2011 and those that will receive dedicated funding for relationship support (subject to negotiations) are listed as follows. The majority of the organisations deliver a mix of preventative couple relationship support, relationship counselling for couples in difficulty and work with couples who are separating or separated:

Asian Family Counselling Service
Care for the Family
Centre for Separated Families
Contact a Family
Families Need Fathers
Gingerbread
Marriage Care
National Association of Child Contact Centres
One Plus One
PACE (Project for Advocacy, Counselling and Education)
Relate
Tavistock Centre for Couple Relationships

In addition, a number of organisations are funded to provide a range of support for families which can also include relationship support.

Special Educational Needs

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require schools to support the health and well-being of children with *(a)* medical needs and *(b)* myalgic encephalomyelitis. [56647]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 23 May 2011]:* There is already a legal duty on schools to promote the well-being of their pupils. Within that, it is for school governing bodies and local authorities, rather than central Government, to determine their own policies on supporting pupils with medical needs. Good schools and local authorities will work with parents and local health services so that the medical needs of children, such as those with myalgic encephalomyelitis, are met while they are at school.

As we said in the Schools White Paper, 'The importance of Teaching', good schools have a vital role as promoters of health and well-being in the local community, and have always had good pastoral systems. They understand well the connections between pupils' physical and mental health and their educational achievement. We believe that the majority of the important work that schools do is not as a result of government prescription, and so the Department has no plans to change the existing arrangements or to bring forward new legislative proposals.

This Department, together with the Department of Health, produced guidance for schools in 2005, entitled 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years'. This recommends, among other things, that there should be a clear policy in each school, an individual health care plan for any child with medical needs, and training for staff. The guidance can be found at:

www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DFES-1448-2005

We encourage other organisations, such as employer and staff associations and charities such as the ME Association, to play their part in supporting schools and parents and in sharing good practice.

Special Educational Needs: Autism

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what financial support his Department provided for children with autistic spectrum disorders in schools in Sunderland in each of the last three years. [57296]

Sarah Teather: Funding data for special education support for children with autistic spectrum disorders are not collected by the Department.

It is for local authorities to take decisions on how to deploy the funding they receive from central Government. In the last three financial years, Sunderland planned to spend £403,646 (2008-09), £397,881 (2009-10) and £397,011 (2010-11) on special educational needs provision, including provision for children with autistic spectrum disorders.

Teachers: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many teachers in each region of England have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for disciplinary offences related to inappropriate internet usage in each of the last three years; [57000]

(2) how many teachers in each region of England have been dismissed on grounds of inefficiency in each of the last three years; [57006]

(3) how many teachers in each region of England have been *(a)* subject to disciplinary procedures on health grounds and *(b)* dismissed on such grounds in each of the last three years. [57007]

Mr Gibb: The responsibility for disciplinary procedures within schools in England, including those that result in dismissal, rests with school governing bodies and local authorities, who are the employers of teachers in schools.

The information requested about the numbers of teachers disciplined and dismissed is not held by the Department.

Teachers: Schoolmasters

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department has provided to *(a)* the National Union of Teachers, *(b)* the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, *(c)* the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, *(d)* the National Association of Head Teachers and *(e)* schemes run by those organisations in each year since 1997. [56406]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Union name	*Financial year*	*Amount of payment (£)*	*Reason for funding*
National Union of Teachers (NUT)	1997 to April2002	[1]—	—
	April 2002 to March 2003	0	—
	April 2003 to March 2004	0	—
	April 2004 to March 2005	465.00	Schools Web - Schools Channels
	April 2005 to March 2006	0	—
	April 2006 to March 2007	0	—
	April 2007 to March 2008	0	—
	April 2008 to March 2009	402.50	Young People Directorate—14-19 Public Awareness
	April 2009 to March 2010	4,482.50	Advertisement for First Post and Litigation
	April 2010 to March 2011	0	—
	April 2011	0	—
	Total	5,350.00	—
National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)	1997 to April 2002	[1]—	—
	April 2002 to March 2003	0	—
	April 2003 to March 2004	0	—
	April 2004 to March 2005	31,500.00	PE Sport Strategy for Young People—Paralympics Assoc
	April 2005 to March 2006	87,486.00	PE Sport Strategy for Young People—Paralympics Assoc/Teachers' Performance Management

Union name	*Financial year*	*Amount of payment (£)*	*Reason for funding*
	April 2006 to March 2007	100,000.00	PE Sport Strategy for Young People—Paralympics Assoc
	April 2007 to March 2008	130,500.00	PE Sport Strategy for Young People—Paralympics Assoc
	April 2008 to March 2009	95,070.00	PE Sport Strategy for Young People—Paralympics Assoc
	April 2009 to March 2010	125,000.00	PE Sport Strategy for Young People—Paralympics Assoc
	April 2010 to March2011	100,000.00	PE Sport Strategy for Young People—Paralympics Assoc
	April 2011	0	—
	Total	669,556.00	—
Association of Teachers and Lecturers(ATL)	1997 to April 2002	[1]—	—
	April 2002 to March 2003	0	—
	April 2003 to March 2004	0	—
	April 2004 to March 2005	0	—
	April 2005 to March 2006	0	—
	April 2006 to March 2007	0	—
	April 2007 to March 2008	0	—
	April 2008 to March 2009	230.00	Young People Directorate—14-19 Reform Local Delivery—Public Awareness
	April 2009 to March 2010	587.50	Stakeholder Engagement Conferences and Exhibitions
	April 2010 to March2011	0	—
	April 2011	0	—
	Total	817.50	—
National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)	1997 to April 2002	[1]—	—
	April 2002 to March 2003	13,883.82	Communications/Public Awareness/ Conferences/ Playing Fields
	April 2003 to March 2004	13,106.37	Playing Fields
	April 2004 to March 2005	24,266.77	Playing Fields/Conferences
	April 2005 to March 2006	10,950.63	Playing Fields/ Publicity/Training
	April 2006 to March 2007	8,212.92	Playing Fields/Gifted and Talented
	April 2007 to March 2008	8,596.91	Playing Fields
	April 2008 to March 2009	13,075.43	Playing Fields/Conferences
	April 2009 to March2010	9,442.84	Playing Fields/Conferences/Public Awareness
	April 2010 to March2011	0	—
	April 2011	0	—
	Total	88,840.46	—

[1] No information available

University Technical Colleges

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many statements of intent his Department received in relation to establishing a university technical college by 1 April 2011; and if he will publish each statement received. [56712]

Mr Gibb: The deadline for sending Statements of Intent for University Technical Colleges to the Department was 15 April 2011. 51 were received by that date. Each proposer now has the opportunity to develop a full application, in line with guidance we have published on the Department's website. We will announce in due course which applications are approved.

Vocational Guidance: Finance

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department plans to provide direct funding to the all-age careers service in academic year 2011-12. [54902]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* Online and helpline service currently funded by the Department for Education for young people will, during the academic year 2011-12, be integrated with those for adults as part of the establishment of a National Careers Service. The Department for Education is providing funding through the Early Intervention Grant to support access to impartial careers guidance for young people in the academic year 2011-12. Subject to the passage of the Education Bill, schools will be responsible for securing independent careers guidance for their pupils from September 2012.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to encourage charitable giving by Ministers in his Department. [57128]

Mr Duncan: All Government Ministers have pledged to undertake a 'one day challenge' with a charity or community group of their choice. This is a clear and public commitment by Ministers to give their time to help others. The pledge aims to inspire others to consider how they might be able to support their communities to benefit themselves, as well as their chosen organisations.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of his Department's employees categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [57607]

Mr Duncan: In response to the Government Transparency Initiative and in line with other Government Departments, the Department for International Development publishes organograms for the entire organisation and salary information for most of the senior civil service. These data are refreshed every six months, details of which can be found on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/transparency

We also provide details of staff leaving DFID and their reason for doing so as part of an annual civil service employment survey return for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), details of which can be found on the ONS website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/default.asp

We have no plans to publish more frequent additional data.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had within the Transitional Committee on the Green Climate Fund on the division of funding between climate change adaptation and mitigation measures; and if he will make a statement. [58069]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The coalition Government support the decision of the 16th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which tasks the Transitional Committee to design a Green Climate Fund with the objective of achieving a balanced allocation between adaptation and mitigation. The Transitional Committee has met once, and there has not yet been any substantial discussion of the division of funding between adaptation and mitigation. The coalition Government will aim to secure provisions for a balanced allocation when this matter is considered in the Transitional Committee.

Developing Countries: Roads

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the provision by the Government of £1.5 million of grant aid to promote global road safety through the UN Global Road Safety Commission; and if he will make a statement. [57676]

Mr O'Brien: Road safety is an important issue for people in developing countries. While this project is not part of our current programme, our core funding to multilateral agencies like the World Bank will save lives by ensuring that road investments include road safety provisions.

Ecuador: Rain Forests

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the proposals of the Government of Ecuador for the preservation of the Yasuni forest. [56936]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government are aware of proposals relating to the Yasuni forest. Although at this early stage a number of important technical questions still need to be addressed, the UK Government recognise the forward looking and innovative approach set out by the Ecuadorian Government. Further attention needs to be devoted to developing environmental and social safeguard policies to ensure that investments do not have unintended harmful consequences, and to the permanence of the arrangements to conserve the Yasuni region.

The UK Government recognise the importance of forests in supporting livelihoods, protecting biodiversity and mitigating climate change. Funding has been committed over the next four years (2011-15) through the International Climate Fund to help developing countries to respond to climate change, and a substantial part of this funding is likely to be focused on forests. An independent review to inform options for UK support on forestry was published on 18 May, and its recommendations are now under consideration.

Elections

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what arrangements his Department put in place to enable its officials working overseas to vote by post in the May 2011 elections and referendum on the voting system. [57563]

Mr Duncan: In the briefing packs for officials who will be taking up an overseas posting we give them the 'Electoral Registration form for a Crown Servant or British Council employee'. This tells them how to register to vote in an election. It is up to the individual to decide if they complete and return the form to their Electoral Registration Office.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's aid to Pakistan was spent in the Pakistan-administered areas of Kashmir in the latest period for which figures are available. [57313]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK supports national programmes in Pakistan that work in, and benefit, Pakistan-administered Kashmir including the National Maternal, Newborn and Child Health programme. The proportion of this aid spent in Pakistan-administered Kashmir cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. UK bilateral aid to Pakistan in 2009-10 totalled £140.4 million.

The UK repaired 450,000 damaged houses and financed building 16 new schools and 40 bridges in Pakistan-administered Kashmir as part of the Department for International Development's (DFID) earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation programme. A number of these projects are now reaching completion, with the overall spend currently totalling £48,377,792, 58% of the £84 million committed.

In addition, DFID provides funding to the Conflict Pool, which is a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office, DFID and Ministry of Defence fund that runs a number of programmes in Pakistan. The value of these programmes in Pakistan-administered Kashmir over the past five years was £1,108,256.

Tanzania: BAE Systems

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for what reasons his Department recommended that funds agreed with the Serious Fraud Office should be paid by BAE to the Government of Tanzania rather than to Tanzanian charities; and if he will make a statement. [56943]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In February 2010, the Department for International Development received a request for advice from the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) about how to ensure that any money paid to Tanzania as a result of its settlement with BAE would be given in a way that would benefit the people of Tanzania, with propriety and transparency.

In the course of discussions, DFID advised that a good approach, which would achieve value for money, developmental impact and the broadest benefit to the Tanzanian people would be to make a payment via Government of Tanzania systems, with the funds ring-fenced for specific development results (in the education sector) and subject to independent, international-standard audit.

In Tanzania, government systems reliably reach most people. Donors, including the UK, already provide significant development assistance through government systems. This money is appropriated by the Tanzanian Parliament and audited by the Controller and Auditor General, and is subject to donor monitoring procedures.

Spending through non-government organisations or an entirely new mechanism were considered, but the use of government systems was deemed to be a good method for achieving value for money and wide impact with minimal additional administration cost.

No proposals for making payments outside of Government systems have been discussed with DFID.

Yemen: International Assistance

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has provided for the activities of UNICEF and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Yemen in 2011. [57244]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with £6 million of funding for work in Yemen in 2011. This funding will go towards addressing the basic humanitarian needs of the children of Yemen, including preventing 11,000 under five-year-olds dying from malnutrition; vaccinating 54,000 children for measles; and improving education for at least 200,000 children.

We have not provided the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) funding for work in Yemen. In view of the current uncertainty in Yemen, we are keeping all our commitments under continuous review.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure the accountability of UNICEF and the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Yemen for funding for his Department for activities in Yemen in 2011. [57247]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) setting out these agencies' obligations in respect of humanitarian funding provided by DFID in 2011. Under these MoUs both agencies will submit regular reports on progress, which will allow DFID to track project expenditure and progress against agreed targets. DFID will also monitor progress through our presence on the OCHA Emergency Relief Fund Advisory Board and meetings with agencies.

DFID has not provided the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) funding for work in Yemen. In view of the current uncertainty in Yemen, we are keeping all our commitments under continuous review.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to reduce the effects on health of levels of air quality. [57255]

Richard Benyon: The Government take air quality issues seriously and have committed to a number of initiatives which will reduce air pollution (targeting transport in the main), including: over £400 million for measures to promote the uptake of ultra-low carbon vehicle technologies; a £560 million Local Sustainable Transport Fund to provide funding for local authorities to support sustainable travel; and a £45 million Green Bus Fund to encourage the uptake of low-emission buses.

The Government also recently committed £5 million to fund a programme of localised measures designed to reduce concentrations of particulate matter in London—the only UK location assessed to have areas that do not comply with the European limit value for this pollutant.

The Government are reviewing what further action can be taken to communicate the impacts of air pollution more effectively, and, through a partnership approach, establish stronger messages about tackling the health impacts of air pollution and what action people can take to reduce air pollution. Examples of such initiatives include 'active travel', which promotes walking and cycling, leading to reduced health risks and improved air quality; and 'smarter choices' measures aimed at behaviour change. The Government will continue to investigate measures to improve air quality and will shortly be consulting on their plans to achieve limit values for nitrogen dioxide.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent assessment her Department has made of the efficiency and viability of inoculating badgers against bovine tuberculosis; and if she will make a statement; [56859]

(2) what her policy is on the level of evidence required in respect of the viability of inoculation of badgers to establish that method as a means to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis. [56860]

Mr Paice: A licensed injectable badger TB vaccine is already available for use on prescription. Experimental studies have demonstrated that vaccination is safe and effective in reducing the progression and spread of TB in badgers. DEFRA is funding a Badger Vaccine Deployment Project to assess the practicality of vaccination in the field and to train lay vaccinators. However, while we would expect vaccination to result in reduced transmission of bovine TB to cattle, we currently have no hard evidence on this. Therefore, the precise contribution vaccination could make to reducing disease in cattle is unknown.

It is important to note that vaccines can never represent a single answer to the problem of bovine TB. Vaccination is a risk reduction measure, most likely to be successful in controlling bovine TB when used alongside other disease control measures.

Despite the relative lack of scientific evidence, the public consultation document made clear that we do see a role for vaccination. We are carefully considering the large number of responses we received to the consultation.

Chewing Gum: Waste Disposal

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on requiring companies involved in the production of chewing gum to contribute towards the clean-up of discarded gum from streets. [56644]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 23 May 2011]*: There are no plans at present to require companies involved in the production of chewing gum to make a financial contribution towards the clean-up of discarded gum.

However, the Government continue to work for changed behaviour on littering, for instance through the work of the chewing gum action group funded by gum manufacturers, and with Keep Britain Tidy through the "Love Where You Live" campaign funded by business.

Circuses: Animal Welfare

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contact officials of her Department have had with legal representatives of the European Circus Association; and on what dates. [57420]

Mr Paice: We do not maintain a record of every contact that organisations, such as the European Circus Association (ECA), has with officials, but it has had frequent contact with officials during the last five years.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanism her Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55891]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA and its Executive agencies request its suppliers to adopt and follow the Governments Fair Payment guidance.

Most of the expenditure of the core Department is on services, rather than goods. Much of the supplier responsibility fails, therefore, on prompt and correct payment of supplier staff salaries. Where goods are concerned, the spread of Tier 2 and 3 suppliers can be very wide and to collect data across such a wide range of organisations would not be efficient or effective and would incur additional cost.

Departmental Co-ordination: Communities and Local Government

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what dates *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department have met their counterparts in the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2011 to date. [57019]

Richard Benyon: Ministers in my Department have met with Ministers in the Department for Communities and Local Government on 2 February, 25 March, 28 March, 31 March, and 9 May on a bilateral basis. We also meet regularly with CLG Ministers at Cabinet, Home Affairs Committee, Economic Affairs Committee, Sub-Committee on Efficiency and Reform, Public Expenditure Committee, Sub-Committee on Threats, Hazards, Resilience and Contingencies, Sub-Committee on Public Health and the ministerial Green Breakfast that my Department hosts. Officials in both Departments have regular meetings and discussions together most weekdays to discuss a range of issues of mutual interest.

Departmental Legal Opinion

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions have been brought as a result of the work of her Department's legal team in each of the last five years for each type of offence; and how many convictions for each type of offence have resulted from such prosecutions in each of the last five years. [55459]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 13 May 2011]:* The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it her policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of her Department's employees categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* number of employees taking voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [57611]

Richard Benyon: The Government are committed to transparency and the availability of data and are currently exploring options for the more frequent publication of this type of work force management information across the civil service.

Departmental Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data her Department has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months; and what such research and data collection exercises undertaken by the Department have not been amended in that period. [56763]

Richard Benyon: This information cannot be provided due to disproportionate costs.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much each executive agency of her Department has spent on travel by *(a)* private hire vehicles, *(b)* trains, *(c)* buses, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56076]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is included in the following table.

Executive Agencies

£

	RPA	*CEFAS*	*FERA*	*VMD*	*AH*	*VLA*
(a) private hire vehicles (may include Taxis unless stated)	67,587	63,754	23,432	7,568	50,259	75,060
(b)trains	331,554	193,247	272,397	[1]97,644	205,932	[1]110,981
(c) buses	1,151	4,921	not available	[1]—	4,032	[1]—
(d) commercial aircraft	49,423	224,826	144,165	[1]—	95,768	150,484
(e) private aircraft	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Indicates brace.

Notes:

1. The VMD does not record the costs of public transport types (bus, train, etc) separately other than hire cars. Instead it records the "reason for travel", which is a more useful measure for understanding and controlling travel costs.

Assuming "since May" means from 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011

2. VLA. Trains and buses are not recorded separately (they are both included in the public transport figure), any 'private hire vehicles' would be included in the taxi figure.

All figures are for period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011

3. CEFAS. This expenditure covers the financial period of 2010-11 and includes journeys undertaken in the fulfilment of non-government customer contracts. The travel cost for these non-government contracts is reimbursed by the recipient of these services in the charges made and income received.

4. FERA The analysis is provided by the main travel provider, further travel costs for these areas will have been via expenses through GPC, expenses claims, and other organisations. We do not capture this level of detail within our Ledgers. Period is May2010 to March 2011.

RPA Expenditure is for the period May 2010 to March 2011. The figure for Private Hire vehicles excludes taxis

The information is provided on the basis that the final accounts for the year 2010-11 are still being audited by the NAO.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56104]

Richard Benyon: Since May 2010, the Department has spent £1,336.47 on travel for special advisers. This can be broken down into £739.08 on domestic rail travel and £597.39 on Eurostar.

Fishery Agreements: Morocco

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2011, Official Report, column 785W, on the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement, if she will oppose any extension to the agreement. [57418]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is waiting for the European Commission to come forward with the proposals which will formally put into effect the extension of the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement up until February 2012. Once the proposals have been received, DEFRA will have to be convinced that there is enough evidence that the population of the Western Sahara will benefit from the agreement before supporting any extension to it.

Fishing Catches

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with large retailers and food producers on fish discards. [57505]

Richard Benyon: As Minister for Fisheries, I have an open dialogue with large retailers and food producers on a number of key issues including fish discards. More recently, I have met with Sainsbury's and Young's, which are active stakeholders promoting the consumption of underutilised fish species (like gurnard and red mullet) which account for 54% of the fish currently being discarded.

Discussions take place at official level on a regular basis with a number of large retailers and food producers via stakeholder fora, such as the Discards Action Group established by Seafish.

Forests: Ecuador

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the proposals of the Government of Ecuador for the preservation of the Yasuni forest. [56935]

Mr Paice: DEFRA is aware of proposals relating to the Yasuni forest. These proposals raise a number of technical questions, including ones concerning environmental and social safeguard policies to ensure that investments do not have unintended harmful consequences, and concerning the permanence of the arrangements to conserve the Yasuni region.

Funding has been committed over the next four years (2011-15) through the International Climate Fund to help developing countries respond to climate change, and a substantial part of this funding is likely to be focused on forests of Ecuador.

Hares: Conservation

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the aims set out in the Biodiversity Action Plan in respect of the brown hare population have been met. [58032]

Richard Benyon: The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) set many hundreds of targets including the following targets for brown hares: to increase the population of brown hares to double the 1995 level by 2010; and to maintain the range of the brown hare at the 2006 level (these targets did not apply to Northern Ireland).

We do not have data for the target concerning the range of the brown hare but the data we have show that the population of brown hares in Great Britain has continued to increase since the 1980s although not at the rate needed to meet the target in the UKBAP.

Inland Waterways

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she has taken to ensure that the Environment Agency navigations can transfer to the proposed new waterways charity in 2015-16; and if she will make a statement. [58155]

Richard Benyon: The Government are committed to delivering a national trust for the waterways over time, which includes both the British Waterways and Environment Agency navigations.

There will be a phased approach to the delivery of this vision, so that assets and liabilities can be transferred sustainably. Under this phased approach the Environment Agency navigations, subject to the agreement of the trustees of the new waterways charity, would transfer to the new charity in the next spending review period (2015-16).

To ensure a smooth transition, a review will be undertaken in 2014 to assess the progress and achievements of the new charity and to consider the options to enable the transfer of the Environment Agency navigations.

Motor Vehicles: Sales

Rebecca Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on the operation of online car trading businesses from residential properties; and if she will make a statement. [56302]

Richard Benyon: Under the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 it is an offence to expose or advertise for sale two or more motor vehicles parked on a road or roads within 500 metres of each other. DEFRA has not received any recent representations on the operation of these provisions.

River Rom: Pollution

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she made of the effects on wildlife of levels of pollution in the River Rom. [57034]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency (EA) assesses the River Rom under the water framework directive. Since 2010 it has been carrying out investigations to identify issues, such as the impact of poor water quality on aquatic life.

The EA is working with Thames Water to tackle poor water quality by addressing misconnections and identifying improvements that are needed to its combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and surcharging sewers.

The EA is aware that there are problems associated with urban diffuse pollution in this area and is identifying the source, where it does not relate to misconnections and CSOs. It is working with relevant local authorities and other implicated parties towards addressing these issues.

Long-term problems associated with the quality and quantity of urban surface run-off entering the river put fish populations at risk. Silt deposits are often formed in the lower reaches of the River Rom because of the shallow gradient in the channel. Plant and invertebrate communities show limited diversity as a result of these silt deposits and elevated pollution levels.

River Thames: Standards

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to ensure the cleanliness and water quality of the River Thames. [57311]

Richard Benyon: In 2009, the Environment Agency published the Thames River Basin Management Plan, which sets out the pressures on the River Thames and the actions needed to address them. The Environment Agency and its partners are now carrying out these actions. Where the Environment Agency does not know the causes of water quality problems and the best methods for tackling them, it is carrying out a programme of investigations to inform its future approach.

A significant improvement to cleanliness and water quality will be achieved through the London Tideway Improvements scheme, which will tackle pollution from urban wastewater and ensure the Thames meets the requirements of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.

The scheme is being delivered by Thames Water and will:

(a) limit pollution from combined sewer overflows through the addition of two new storage and transfer tunnels: the Lee Tunnel and Thames Tunnel, which will intercept and transport storm sewage to the Beckton sewage treatment works; and

(b) improve the treatment capacity and effluent quality at five sewage treatment works: Mogden, Crossness, Beckton, Long Reach and Riverside.

Sustainable Development

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what dates the *(a)* Sustainable Development Programme Board and *(b)* Sustainable Development Policy Working Group have met since May 2010; and when their next scheduled meetings are. [57074]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 23 May 2011]:* The Sustainable Development Programme met on 1 July, 28 September and 9 December 2010 and the Sustainable Development Policy Working Group met on 3 June, 9 September and 4 November 2010. There were also interdepartmental meetings on sustainable development, Greening Government and the Greening Government commitments on the following dates: 14 July 2010, 5 October 2010, 8 February 2011 and 18 February 2011.

Apart from day-to-day discussions between officials, plans for standing engagement between DEFRA and other Departments on sustainable development are currently under review within our approach of mainstreaming sustainable development across Government.

Water: EU Law

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what proportion of waterways owned by the Crown Estate is expected to achieve *(a)* good ecological status and *(b)* good ecological potential under the Water Framework Directive by 2015; [53629]

(2) how many weirs owned by the Crown Estate are without fully functional all-fish species passes which comply with the provision of the Water Framework Directive. [53630]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The Crown Estate grants agricultural tenancies on land which includes inland waterways. The lessees are responsible for maintenance. The Crown Estate is not aware of any waterways and weirs that it owns which do not comply with the Waterways Framework Directive.

HEALTH

Cancer Drugs Fund

20. **Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund; and if he will make a statement. [57831]

Mr Simon Burns: We have received representations from hon. Members, noble Lords, and members of the public on how the fund has been operating. This includes many welcoming the additional support we are giving to cancer patients in need.

Over 2,400 patients have already benefitted from the additional funding provided up to the start of April 2011, and the additional £600 million we have committed over the next three years will improve the lives of thousands more cancer sufferers.

NHS Financial Performance

21. **Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the financial performance of the NHS in 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [57832]

Mr Simon Burns: The national health service is in a strong financial position. At Quarter 3 of 2010-11, the strategic health authorities and primary care trusts were forecasting an overall surplus of £1,269 million, and the NHS trust sector was forecasting an overall surplus of £132 million. We expect the 2010-11 final year end surplus to be no less than this forecast.

Influenza Vaccine

22. **Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the availability of influenza vaccine for winter 2011-12. [57833]

Anne Milton: The Department has had an initial exchange of views with the Scottish Executive on planning for the seasonal flu vaccination programme for winter 2011-12.

Ordering of flu vaccine in England is the responsibility of general practitioner practices. Central Government will procure a small central strategic reserve to mitigate the risk of local shortages in England.

The Scottish Executive centrally procures seasonal flu vaccine for the Scottish health service.

NHS: Competition and Collaboration

23. **Mrs Glindon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential role of *(a)* competition and *(b)* co-operation and collaboration in the NHS. [57834]

Mr Simon Burns: Both co-operation and competition have important roles to play in improving services for patients. We want to see better integration of services to improve quality and increased choice for patients.

This is a key theme of the current listening exercise on national health service modernisation. The NHS Future Forum is seeking views on the development of choice and competition in the NHS and we look forward to the forum's report.

GP Commissioning Consortia

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the redundancy costs of staff of primary care trusts and strategic health authorities eligible to be employed by GP commissioning consortia. [57811]

Mr Simon Burns: The impact assessment estimated that redundancies would cost £852 million for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities. It also explained how our proposals for modernising the national health service would save £1.7 billion a year in administration spending by 2014-15, to reinvest in front-line patient care.

Emergency Planning

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of the responsibilities of primary care trusts in emergency planning. [57820]

Anne Milton: As the right hon. Member is aware, the Government are at the end of the NHS Listening Exercise, during which we have heard a wide range of views. Future responsibility for emergency planning will be made clear in the near future.

The delivery of health care resilience is currently through a combination of roles and responsibilities across a number of national health service organisations, and the Health Protection Agency.

Health care resilience is part of much wider planning for emergencies both at a local level, including local authorities, ambulance trusts, fire brigades and police forces and at a national level by Government Departments and agencies.

Health and Social Care Bill

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to table amendments for consideration during the Report stage of the Health and Social Care Bill. [57835]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Future Forum are now reflecting on what they have heard and will be publishing their report shortly. We will then respond and set out the improvements to the Health and Social Care Bill.

Care Quality Commission

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the average amount of Care Quality Commission staff time needed to conduct a service review for an *(a)* NHS trust, *(b)* independent hospital and *(c)* adult social care provider, broken down by (i) time for site visit, (ii) review and assessment of (A) information held by the Care Quality Commission on the organisation and (B) completed provider compliance assessments and (iii) completion and publication of a report. [58079]

Mr Simon Burns: In terms of delivering its regulatory functions, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) is an independent body and is therefore responsible for determining the time needed to undertake reviews of registered services in order to carry out its functions efficiently and effectively.

The time taken to carry out a service review varies enormously depending on the circumstances, size and nature of the service. We are advised by the CQC that the information requested is not gathered centrally.

The CQC is, however, currently conducting an activity-based management review with a sample of compliance staff to study the time demands of the different parts of the regulatory process. Once complete, the findings will be used to establish the value of activity-based information in carrying out the commission's regulatory functions, and will inform the CQC's ongoing resource planning.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training staff at the Care Quality Commission will receive on registration and inspection of *(a)* dental services and *(b)* GP services. [58082]

Mr Simon Burns: In terms of delivering its regulatory functions, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) is an independent body and it is therefore for the CQC to determine the appropriate training staff require so that the CQC can carry out its functions efficiently and effectively.

The following information has been provided by the CQC.

CQC staff have received specific training relating to dentistry which includes:

a sector overview of primary dental care;

system training including the registration process for primary dental care providers; and

training on compliance monitoring of primary dental care providers.

Specific training relating to general practitioners will include (this has not been rolled out universally yet):

sector overview of primary medical care;

system training including the registration process for primary medical care providers; and

training on compliance monitoring of primary medical care providers.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the maximum amount of time that can elapse is before a health or social care provider will receive a site inspection under the Care Quality Commission's regulation methodology. [58086]

Mr Simon Burns: Under the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) current methodology, every provider should be reviewed at least every two years. However, in line with the principles of proportionate, risk-based regulation, the CQC carries out site visits based on its judgment of risk and where a site visit is the most effective way of gathering information about compliance. This enables the CQC to target its resources on providers where the risk is highest, while reducing the regulatory burden on providers where the risk is low. Site visits will therefore take place wherever necessary to gather information about compliance.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration the Care Quality Commission gives to provider self-assessment in its assessment of whether a health or social care provider is compliant with its essential standards. [58088]

Mr Simon Burns: The following information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The CQC uses its quality and risk profiles (QRP) and its Outliers programme (which identifies services whose performance lies outside the expected range) to identify the risk of non-compliance by registered providers with the safety and quality registration requirements.

Providers self assessments of compliance are not included in either the QRP or the Outliers programme. The purpose of provider compliance assessments is to help the provider itself in considering whether it is compliant with the safety and quality requirements. Provider compliance assessments are not mandatory. When carrying out a review, the CQC may ask to see any provider compliance assessment that has been undertaken and this information may add to the evidence base upon which the inspectors judgment is founded. However the provider compliance assessment will not form part of the decision to undertake a responsive review.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many separate indicators are available within the Care Quality Commission's quality and risk profiles for *(a)* NHS providers, *(b)* independent health care providers and *(c)* adult social care providers. [58089]

Mr Simon Burns: The following information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The precise number of indicators used by CQC changes over time as data sets become less timely or are superseded by better data. The number of indicators for each provider is different as not all sources of data apply to all providers, depending upon the precise mix of services they provide. However, at the last update (10 May 2011) of the Quality and Risk Profile, the average number of separate indicators for each national health service provider was approximately 500 with approximately 50 indicators for independent health care and adult social care providers.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of the Care Quality Commission's assessors and inspectors hold a *(a)* nursing qualification, *(b)* social work qualification, *(c)* professional qualification in regulation and *(d)* another professional qualification relating to health or social care. [58090]

Mr Simon Burns: It is for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to determine the appropriate staffing complement and qualifications in order to carry out its functions efficiently and effectively.

The following information has been provided by the CQC.

As part of its recruitment process, the CQC does not specifically require inspectors and assessors to hold a nursing qualification, social work qualification, professional qualification in regulation or another professional qualification relating to health or social care. Therefore, the CQC does not have a record of these data.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of the Care Quality Commission's assessors and inspectors are registered with *(a)* the Nursing and Midwifery Council and *(b)* the General Social Care Council. [58091]

Mr Simon Burns: It is for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to determine the appropriate staffing complement and qualifications in order to carry out its functions efficiently and effectively.

CQC has provided the following information.

As part of its recruitment process, CQC does not specifically require inspectors and assessors to be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and the General Social Care Council. Therefore, CQC does not hold these data.

Bowel Cancer: Older People

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that elderly patients are not underrepresented in clinical trials for bowel cancer therapies. [57064]

Paul Burstow: The Government are committed to opening up information about clinical trials in all therapeutic areas including bowel cancer, so that patients can find out about trials that may be relevant to their condition. The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is developing a web-based UK Clinical Trials Gateway. It will present, in accessible form, information about trials conducted in the United Kingdom. By 2012, the Gateway will make it easy for patients, their doctors and carers, friends and families to see what a trial is about, where it is taking place, and who is running it. It will help patients, including elderly patients, to join in clinical trials if they are suitable and choose to do so with full information and advice.

The NIHR encourages patients and the public to be actively involved in all NIHR-funded health and social care research. The NIHR funds INVOLVE, which promotes active public participation in national health service, public health and social care research to improve the way that research is prioritised, commissioned, undertaken, communicated and used.

Cancer

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to assess the effects of lifestyle and behaviour on rates of cancer. [57067]

Paul Burstow: The Department draws on evidence from a range of sources, including academic research, to assess links between lifestyles and rates of cancer and this is kept under constant review. Evidence of the link between lifestyle behaviours—such as tobacco use (including smoking), alcohol consumption, drug misuse, poor diet and nutrition, being overweight or obese and physically inactive—is well established. This research shows that up to half of all cancers could be prevented by changes in lifestyle behaviours, so it is clear that these behaviours have an effect on cancer rates.

"Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our strategy for public health in England" sets out our strategy for improving public health and reducing the risk factors associated with developing conditions such as cancer.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the capability of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to carry out appraisals for innovative inhibitor therapies for rare cancers where the target population is very small; and if he will make a statement. [57488]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the member for Wirral West (Esther McVey) on 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 426W.

Cancer: Waiting Lists

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for cancer patients in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency to receive treatment *(a)* was in each year from May 2005 to April 2010 and *(b)* has been in 2011 to date. [56751]

Paul Burstow: Statistics on average waiting times between diagnosis and treatment for cancer are not collected centrally. The cancer waiting time standard of a maximum wait of 31 days from diagnosis to first cancer treatment was introduced for all patients from December 2005. In the most recent period for which statistics are available (quarter 3 2010-11), 98.7%, of patients treated for cancer at South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust began their treatment within 31 days.

Care Homes

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of care homes in each region that were found not to be compliant with national minimum standard *(a)* 10.1 on privacy and dignity, *(b)* 9.6 on medicines management, *(c)* 12.2 and 15.4 on nutrition and *(d)* 18.1 on protection from abuse in each year since the standards were established. [57671]

Paul Burstow: The Care Quality Commission is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England and, as such, holds information on providers' compliance.

Information showing where compliance with the national minimum standards was designated 'not met' or 'almost met' has been placed in the Library. The data are by financial year and by current region under the Care Standards Act 2000 from 1 April 2002 to 30 September 2010.

Information showing the compliance and non-compliance of care homes in each region, and those in process of being assessed, has been placed in the Library. This covers the period 1 October 2010 onwards, by current region.

Colorectal Cancer: Health Services

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the 30-day mortality rate was for patients with a diagnosis of bowel cancer who received a major surgical resection for bowel cancer for each stage of cancer in each *(a)* provider, *(b)* cancer network and *(c)* strategic health authority in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [55818]

Paul Burstow: The information is not available in the format requested. However, in April 2011 the National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) published an eAtlas following a study of the 30-day mortality rate for patients with a diagnosis of bowel cancer, who received a major surgical resection. Information on the number of surgical resections and proportion of deaths is provided at trust and cancer network level for the period from 1998 to 2006 and is available on the NCIN website at:

www.ncin.org.uk/cancer_type_and_topic_specific_work/cancer_type_specific_work/postoperative_mortality.aspx.

An eAtlas of preliminary information for trusts with significantly better or worse post-operative mortality rates than expected during 2002 to 2006 was also published. This showed that the performance of trusts with worse than expected 30-day post-operative mortality rates in 2003 to 2006 had improved in 2007-08. The NCIN has advised that information for 2007-08 will be updated in due course when analysis is complete.

A data briefing summarising some of the key findings in relation to year of diagnosis and stage of diagnosis is also available on the NCIN website.

Dental Services: Equipment

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of people who are offered a statement of manufacture with their dental device. [57208]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally.

Departmental Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to encourage charitable giving by Ministers in his Department. [57119]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 17 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 631W.

Departmental Equality

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account he has taken of the effects of income inequality in the *(a)* formulation and *(b)* implementation of policy. [57153]

Anne Milton: "Healthy Lives, Healthy People", the public health White Paper, accepted the analysis in the Marmot review on health inequalities ("Fair Society, Healthy Lives", 2010) that emphasised the importance of social factors—including income inequalities—in shaping inequalities in health and contributing to wider disadvantage. This approach will underpin our efforts to strengthen public health and narrow the health gap by improving the health of the poorest fastest.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, from 2013-14, the Department will allocate a ring-fenced public health grant to local authorities, weighted for inequalities. A new health premium will reward communities for the improvements in health outcomes they achieve, and incentivise action to reduce health inequalities. Disadvantaged areas will see a greater premium if they make progress, recognising that they face the greatest challenges.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of his Department's employees categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [57609]

Mr Simon Burns: Cabinet Office has recently commissioned monthly workforce management reports from Departments across Whitehall, which include numbers of, and expenditure on, permanent and non-permanent workers. This forms part of the Government's cross-departmental transparency agenda. This information will be made publicly available in due course.

The Department already publishes its annual resource accounts, which include workforce information. It also provides quarterly returns (Quarterly Public Sector Employment Surveys) to the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and an annual return to ONS for their Annual Civil Service Employment Survey. The Department also publishes, again, as part of the Government's transparency agenda, organograms (organisational structure charts) which include staffing structures, numbers and pay levels.

Drugs: Misuse

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many heroin addicts were treated with diamorphine in the latest period for which figures are available. [57338]

Anne Milton: A national survey of a one in four sample of community pharmacies in England and Wales in 1995 reported that 64 people were receiving diamorphine prescriptions for opiate addiction. (Published in "Drug and Alcohol Review", Volume 16, Issue 1, pages 7-16. March 1997.)

In 2009 the Specialist Clinicians in Addiction Network and the Substance Misuse Management in General Practice network facilitated a survey by the National Treatment Agency. The numbers of respondents to this survey were too small for it to have independent validity, but the results were of the same general order as the 1995 data.

Enforcement Actions

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applications for registration have been refused for *(a)* NHS trusts, *(b)* independent healthcare providers and *(c)* adult social care providers in each of the last three years. [58094]

Mr Simon Burns: The following information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Number of applications for registration refused

		Independent health care providers		*Adult social care providers*	
Financial year	*NHS trusts*	*CSA*	*HSCA*	*CSA*	*HSCA*
2010-11	0	35	1	0	2
2009-10	0	62	—	0	—
2008-09[1]	n/a	24	—	21	—

n/a = Not applicable. NHS providers were not required to register prior to 1 April 2009.

[1] These are applications for registration refused by CQC's predecessor bodies, the Healthcare Commission and Commission for Social Care Inspection.

CSA = Applications where registration was refused under the Care Standards Act 2000.

HSCA = Applications where registration was refused under the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

General Practitioners

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will prepare guidance to general practitioners on the collection of psychosocial data to assist in the health care of patients. [57108]

Mr Simon Burns: No. General practitioners already collect a range of personal information about patients registered with them that is relevant to their health needs. In addition, guidance issued by the General Medical Council, "Good Medical Practice", states that:

> "Good clinical care must include adequately assessing the patient's conditions, taking account of the history (including the symptoms, and psychological and social factors), the patient's views, and where necessary examining the patient."

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has prepared guidance on remuneration for board members of GP consortia. [57429]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to the NHS Listening Exercise and the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, we propose that commissioning consortia must have a constitution, which will specify the arrangements for how it will discharge its functions, including in relation to determining the remuneration and terms and conditions of its employees. The arrangements may also include provision for the appointment of committees of a consortium, and for such committees to include persons other than members of employees of consortia. The Department has not issued guidance on remuneration arrangements of consortia.

Haematological Cancer

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that all blood cancer patients have access to a clinical nurse specialist; [57239]

(2) what steps he is taking to improve blood cancer survival outcomes; and if he will make a statement; [57240]

(3) what support the NHS provides to blood cancer patients who wish to remain in or return to the workforce. [57241]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", published on 12 January, sets out a range of actions to improve survival outcomes for all cancers in England, including haematological cancers. These actions include diagnosing symptomatic cancer earlier, helping people to live healthier lives to reduce the incidence of preventable cancers, screening more people, introducing new screening programmes and ensuring that all patients have access to the best possible treatment, care and support. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library.

We know that cancer patients greatly value the care and support of clinical nurse specialists (CNSs). The results of the 2010 Cancer Patient Experience Survey show that 81% of haematological cancer patients reported having a CNS. To support the national health service to develop the CNS work force, the strategy sets out our intention to build the evidence base for the benefits and costs savings that CNSs can offer. This follows an independent report we published in December 2010 that showed that in many scenarios the costs of additional support roles are likely to be outweighed by the savings that can be achieved.

For many people with cancer, being supported to stay in or return to work can provide a huge boost to self-esteem, financial security and emotional wellbeing. Through the National Cancer Survivorship Initiative, we are working in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support to ensure that cancer survivors receive the support they need to live as healthy and as active a lifestyle as possible. This work includes looking at models of support to enable those cancer survivors who want to, to get back to work. Seven vocation rehabilitation pilots were established in 2010 to take this work forward, and these are set to run until July this year. The evaluation report on the pilots is due for publication in September 2011.

Health

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will evaluate research into the recovery rates of patients who are *(a)* married or in long-term relationships and *(b)* not married or in long-term relationships from (i) heart disease, (ii) cancer and (iii) mental health conditions. [57104]

Paul Burstow: Although the Department has not formally evaluated any research specifically in these areas it does aim to keep abreast of major developments in research relevant to its responsibilities. However, we do know that good social relationships and connectedness are associated with a range of positive outcomes, including better physical and mental health. Reducing isolation and building supportive social networks and relationships promotes good mental health and recovery as well as preventing mental health problems.

Physical illness greatly increases the risk of mental illness and mental illness can itself be a causal factor in the onset of physical disease. Depression is associated with a two-fold increased risk of coronary heart disease and unhealthy behaviour such as poor diet, less exercise, self-harm and significantly greater prevalence of smoking and drug and alcohol misuse.

Health Services: Older People

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what documented procedures are in place for *(a)* GPs and *(b)* hospitals to ensure thorough and proper care of the elderly. [57487]

Paul Burstow: There are a number of indicators in both the Quality and Outcomes Framework for General Practitioners and the NHS Operating framework for hospitals to support better care for older people around dementia care, hospital acquired infections, readmission rates and non-payment for emergency readmissions. In future, all licensed doctors will need to revalidate regularly, if they wish to keep their license to practise up to date and fit to practise. However, the content and standard of health care training is the responsibility of the independent regulatory bodies.

The Government are also funding several national audits on continence, falls and bone health, hip fracture, dementia care in general hospital through the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership by involving all hospitals to promote transparent information about care gaps. There are National Institute for health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines in place for a range of conditions and pathways affecting older people including continence, nutrition, delirium, dementia, falls and bone health.

In addition, local commissioning is also informed by joint strategic needs assessments for the local population and the Care Quality Commission also has a regulation and inspection function for primary care services. However, many of these solutions depend on high quality local clinical leadership and advocacy from professional bodies such as royal colleges and specialist societies.

Health Services: Learning Disability

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that people with profound and multiple learning difficulties have access to personalised services; and if he will make a statement; [57236]

(2) what recent representations his Department has received on the personalisation of services for people with profound and multiple learning difficulties; and if he will make a statement; [57237]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* assess the effectiveness of the personalisation of services for people with profound and multiple learning difficulties; and if he will make a statement. [57238]

Paul Burstow: The Department is not directly involved in monitoring or assessing services. The Care Quality Commission is responsible for assessing and ensuring the quality of its inspection and monitoring of specific providers on a day to day basis.

We know that people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and those whose behaviours are viewed as challenging have not benefited from personalisation as much as they should have. The Government have encouraged a move away from out of area placement and the development of small-scale services which are closer to home.

The Government are funding the Challenging Behaviour Foundation and the National Strategy Group for Challenging Behaviour to:

strengthen their national network;

support best practice to drive improvements in services; and

develop a national care pathway with all key partners.

In addition, we have driven forward work to improve the way in which the national health service responds to the needs of all people with learning disabilities, including general practitioners offering all people with learning disabilities annual health checks.

The Department is working with strategic health authorities and primary care trusts to embed a health care self-assessment process which engages local decision makers, people with learning disabilities and their families to drive up quality of health care provision locally. The first section of standards explicitly refers to out of area placements and ensuring they are delivering for individuals.

A number of representations have recently been made via parliamentary questions. I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Arfon (Hywel Williams) on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 108-09W.

Health Services: Transsexuality

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to raise awareness of the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities among health professionals. [57066]

Paul Burstow: The Department has published a series of guidance documents on sexual orientation and gender identity for health and social care professionals, which are available on the Department's website.

In March 2011 the Department supported Stonewall to run a leadership programme for lesbian, gay and bisexual staff in the national health service. These staff will help form a key group of Champions to advance Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGB & T) equality at local level. The Department has recently confirmed that the National LGB & T Partnership will join its Strategic Partnership Programme for 2011-12 providing strategic advice on LGB & T health and social care issues.

Health: Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which longitudinal studies monitoring the physical health and emotional well-being of children his Department has undertaken in each of the last five years; when each study commenced; what each was monitoring; what the budget of each was in each year; what plans there were for the future of each such study; and what their budgets have been to date. [57107]

Mr Simon Burns: The Millennium Cohort Study (MCS), commissioned by the Economic and Social Research Council, is a longitudinal study following the lives of around 19,000 children born in the United Kingdom in 2000-01. The MCS covers topics such as parenting, child care, school choice, child behaviour and cognitive development, child and parental health, parents' employment and education, income and poverty, housing, neighbourhood and residential mobility, and social capital and ethnicity. Funding support for the study is provided across Government, and the Department is contributing £1.1 million over the period from June 2001 to June 2014. The Department's spend on the MCS in each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

	£
2006-07	100,000
2007-08	100,000
2008-09	82,000
2009-10	97,000
2010-11	121,000

Heart Diseases: Children

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent progress has been made on proposals to re-locate children's heart services in Hampshire to Bristol; [56928]

(2) for what reasons he proposes to re-locate children's heart services in Hampshire to Bristol. [56929]

Mr Simon Burns: The "Safe and Sustainable" review of children's heart services in England is being conducted by the NHS Specialised Commissioning Team. We have however been following its progress.

No decision has yet been made on the location of children's heart surgery units. The proposed options for children's congenital heart services are currently being consulted on. Patients and the public have the opportunity to make their views known during the formal public consultation process which closes on 1 July. This is an open consultation and is not pre-determined. Alternative options may be proposed and will be considered. The Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts, overseeing the consultation, will consider an independent analysis of the consultation responses, reports from overview and scrutiny committees, and a health impact assessment. The Committee is expected to make a decision in autumn 2011.

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of the population of England which lives within an hour's journey time of *(a)* the Freeman hospital, Newcastle and *(b)* Leeds general infirmary; [57341]

(2) on how many different sites at *(a)* the Freeman hospital, Newcastle and *(b)* Leeds general infirmary children's services are provided; [57342]

(3) whether post-operative care in the same unit is provided for children who have undergone heart surgery at *(a)* the Freeman hospital, Newcastle and *(b)* Leeds general infirmary; [57343]

(4) whether adult and children's heart surgery is carried out on the same site at *(a)* the Freeman hospital, Newcastle and *(b)* Leeds general infirmary; [57344]

(5) whether the Safe and Sustainable Reviews of specialist paediatric services, or any committee connected to the reviews, has engaged the services of a public affairs company or consultancy; [57347]

(6) what evidence his Department has evaluated on the incidence of congenital heart disease among minority ethnic communities from the Indian sub-continent. [57382]

Mr Simon Burns: The Safe and Sustainable review of children's heart services in England is being conducted by the NHS Specialised Commissioning Team. However, we have been following its progress.

Details about the travel analysis is available in appendix S, page 208 of the pre-business consultation case. This is available at:

www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/document/meeting-joint-committee-primary-care-trusts-jcpct-16th-february-2011-agenda

We are informed that both the Freeman hospital and the Leeds general infirmary are single-site hospitals with children's services provided at both hospitals. At both hospitals, children receive post-operative care at the same hospital that provides heart surgery. Both the Freeman hospital and the Leeds general infirmary provide adult and children's heart surgery.

The National Specialised Commissioning Team has engaged a communications company to assist with the production of public literature, the organisation of public events and media handling in relation to the Safe and Sustainable review of children's heart surgery services.

The Department has made no evaluation of the incidence of congenital heart disease among minority ethnic communities from the Indian sub-continent. As part of the work on the Safe and Sustainable review the National Specialised Commissioning Team have developed projections of future activity, including considering the future needs of areas with high black and ethnic minority groups. This information is in annex 6 of the consultation document, which is available at:

www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/safeandsustainable/consultation_document

Hospitals: Television

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* average daily charge and *(b)* total charges incurred by patients and their families for watching television in hospitals; and whether he plans to take steps to reduce such charges. [57644]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect the information requested.

Charges for television services are agreed locally between national health service trusts and their chosen suppliers. The Department has no authority to impose price changes on the suppliers of these services.

Infectious Diseases: Herbal Medicine

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the treatment of echinococcus multilocularis following the implementation of the EU Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products. [57309]

Mr Simon Burns: No representations have been received in relation to the treatment of echinococcus multilocularis linked to the implementation of the European Directive 2004/24/EC on traditional herbal medicinal products.

Inspections

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of health and social care providers *(a)* will have received a site inspection in the inspection year to October 2011 and *(b)* will receive a site inspection in the year from October 2011 to October 2012. [58087]

Mr Simon Burns: Under the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) current methodology, every provider should be reviewed at least every two years. However, in line with the principles of proportionate, risk-based regulation, the CQC carries out site visits based on its judgment of risk where a site visit is the most effective way of gathering information about compliance. This enables the CQC to target its resources on providers where the risk is highest, while reducing the regulatory burden on providers where the risk is low. Site visits will therefore take place wherever necessary to gather information about compliance.

The CQC cannot predict the number of site visits which will take place or the proportion of providers visited, since decisions about whether a site visit is required are based on judgment of risk.

Leicester City Primary Care Trust: Diabetes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Leicester City Primary Care Trust spent on diabetes in each category of expenditure in the last financial year for which figures are available. [57326]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is not held centrally.

Diabetes is a complex condition that can affect every part of the body, which means that it is difficult to calculate how much money has been spent on the treatment of diabetes. It is for national health service organisations to determine the needs of their local population and to allocate resources appropriately to meet these needs.

Leucodepletion

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the decision to implement leucodepletion. [57200]

Anne Milton: There have been no discussions with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the decision to implement leucodepletion. Leucodepletion, which removes the bulk of white cells from donated blood, was introduced in the United Kingdom in October 1999. The process reduces the risk of cytomegalovirus transmission, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease transmission, transfusion-related acute lung injury and transfusion-related fever.

Local Health Watch: Finance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how Local Health Watch will be funded. [57716]

Mr Simon Burns: Local HealthWatch organisations will be funded through the local authority formula-based grant.

London Ambulance Service: AssetCo

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts the London Ambulance Service holds with AssetCo plc. [57333]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally. The hon. Member may wish to approach London Ambulance Service NHS Trust directly for the information requested.

Medical Equipment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department have had recent discussions on the P-Capt filter. [57199]

Anne Milton: Ministers and officials have had no recent discussions on the P-Capt prion filter.

The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) on the potential use of prion filters are dependant upon study results. Ministers and officials will consider SaBTO's recommendations and the evidence in early 2012.

Medical Treatments

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the efficacy of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence topic selection procedure; and if he will make a statement. [57214]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) last reviewed NICE's topic selection processes for technology appraisals in 2008-09 and for clinical guidelines and public health guidance in 2006. Both reviews incorporated a public consultation..

Mental Health Services: Children

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many days were spent by children on adult mental health wards in each region in 2010-11. [58044]

Paul Burstow: The number of days spent by children and young people aged under 19 on adult mental health wards in each region in 2010-11 was as follows:

Number of occupied bed days spent by children on adult mental health wards in each region in 2010-11

		Number
Q00	England	5,166
Q30	North East strategic health authority	200
Q31	North West strategic health authority	592
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber strategic health authority	1,077
Q33	East Midlands strategic health authority	553
Q34	West Midlands strategic health authority	577
Q35	East of England strategic health authority	725
Q36	London strategic health authority	337
Q37	South East coast strategic health authority	356
Q38	South Central strategic health authority	493
Q39	South West strategic health authority	256

Notes:

1. Number of occupied bed days spent by children on adult mental health wards in each region in 2010-11 Vital Signs Monitoring Return—Provider Based (VSMR-P)—CAMHS Data—SHA and Self Trusts.

Year: 2010-11
Period Name: MARCH
VSMRType: CAMHS
Extracted 25 May 2011

The figures include five bed days reported for under-16s on adult psychiatric wards. Two bed days were reported in Q3 2010-11 and found to be a reporting error. Three bed days (at two locations) were reported in Q4 2010-11. These cases are being investigated. The Government believes that an adult psychiatric ward is not an acceptable place for an under-16-year-old to be treated.

There is a legislative requirement that hospital managers must ensure that patients aged under 18 are treated in an environment in hospital which is suitable having regard to their age (subject to their needs). There can be circumstances where an adult psychiatric ward is an appropriate place for a 16 or 17-year-old, e.g. overriding emergency, atypical case.

Multiple Sclerosis

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has made an assessment of the effectiveness of Sativex in alleviating symptoms of spasticity in multiple sclerosis patients. [57493]

Paul Burstow: We have made no such assessment.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has not issued any guidance to the national health service on the use of Sativex.

In the absence of final NICE guidance on a particular treatment, it is for primary care trusts to decide whether to fund the use of such drugs and patients have a right under the NHS constitution to expect local funding decisions to be made rationally and after an assessment of the available evidence.

National Clinical Directors

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to make any national clinical directors redundant under his plans for NHS reorganisation. [57556]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government continue to value the contribution made by national clinical directors. The future provision of clinical and expert advice will be considered as part of the response to the current listening exercise on planned national health service reorganisation.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* title and *(b)* post holder is of each national clinical director in his Department; and for how many staff each director is responsible. [57557]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department currently has 15.15 whole time equivalent (WTE) national clinical directors (NCDs). The following table provides a breakdown of their titles, the post holder and their WTE. The NCDs are not directly responsible for any Departmental staff.

Title	*Name*	*WTE*
National Clinical Director for Diagnostic Imaging	Erika Denton	0.3
National Clinical Director for Endoscopy	Roland Valori	0.3
National Clinical Director for Patient and Public Affairs	Joan Saddler	0.7
National Clinical Director Medical Practitioners (Children, Young People and Maternity Services)	Sheila Shribman	0.8
National Clinical Director (Diabetes)	Rowan Hillson	0.6
National Clinical Director for Pathology	Ian Barnes	0.6
National Clinical Director (Cardiology)	Roger Boyle	1
National Clinical Director (Cancer)	Mike Richards	1
National Clinical Director (Transplants)	Chris Rudge	0.8
National Clinical Director (Respiratory)	Robert Winter	0.25
National Clinical Director for Community Pharmacy	Jonathan Mason	0.5
National Clinical Director for Hospitals Pharmacy	Martin Stephens	0.5
National Clinical Director (Urgent and Emergency Care)	Matthew Cooke	0.4
National Clinical Director for Informatics	Charles Gutteridge	0.6
National Clinical Director (Liver)	Martin Lombard	0.5
National Clinical Director (Renal)	Donal O'Donoghue	0.6
Chief Scientific Officer and National Clinical Director (Respiratory)	Sue Hill	1
National Clinical Director (Trauma)	Keith Willett	0.6
National Clinical Director for Offender Health	Louis Appleby	1
National Clinical Director (Dementia)	Alistair Burns	0.5
National Clinical Director (Older People)	David Oliver	0.5
National Clinical Director (Venous Thrombo-embolism VTE)	Anita Thomas	0.4
National Clinical Director for Mental Health	Hugh Griffiths	0.7
National Clinical Director (Learning Disability)	Anne Williams	0.5
National Clinical Director (Learning Disability)	Scott Watkins	0.5
Total WTE	—	15.15

National Health Service Litigation Authority

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in how many cases the National Health Service Litigation Authority was successful in defending a claim of clinical negligence in each of the last three years; in how many such cases the authority recovered costs from the claimant or their insurers; and what the total costs recovered were, including disbursements and solicitors' costs. [57915]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Neuromuscular Services

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by the NHS North East Specialised Commissioning Group in reviewing neuromuscular services in the region; and if he will make a statement. [57721]

Paul Burstow: This is a matter for the national health service locally.

The North East Specialised Commissioning Group is due to complete its review of neuromuscular services in the region in June 2011. We expect the findings of the report to be published.

NHS Trusts

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to increase the accountability of NHS trusts to the public. [57868]

Mr Simon Burns: Foundation trusts are locally accountable to their governors, mostly members of the public, elected by the public. We intend all national health service trusts to become, or be part of, a foundation trust by 2014. Part 4 of the Health and Social Care Bill would clarify and strengthen the internal governance of foundation trusts, further promoting transparency and accountability of foundation trusts to their governors, members and the public.

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment has he made of the process by which NHS trusts appoint *(a)* chairs, *(b)* directors and *(c)* non-executive directors. [57869]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health delegates powers to appoint chairs and non-executive directors of national health service trusts to the Appointments Commission.

These appointments are regulated by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA). To ensure the Appointments Commission comply with the Commissioner's code of practice throughout the appointment process, they are regularly audited by OCPA and are required to submit an annual compliance statement to the Commissioner.

NHS trusts are expected to comply with existing employment legislation and good human resources practice in the appointment of chief executives and executive directors. In addition, they are expected to comply with guidance sent from Sir David Nicholson, NHS Chief Executive, on 18 October 2006, "Appointments to the most senior posts in Primary Care Trusts and NHS Trusts".

NHS: Databases

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the name is of each *(a)* NHS Commissioner and *(b)* provider of NHS-commissioned care that is not yet compliant with the IG toolkit requirement for the pseudonymisation of patient data and records. [57956]

Mr Simon Burns: National health service commissioner and provider organisations publish on 31 March each year an information governance assessment using the online information governance toolkit. The published returns for the pseudonymisation requirement that represent the position at 31 March 2011 have been placed in the Library.

NHS organisations work continuously to maintain and improve performance in all aspects of information governance and those organisations that have not yet reached the required level of attainment are expected to have plans in place to do so during the course of this year.

NHS: Disadvantaged

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means *(a)* HealthWatch, *(b)* health and wellbeing boards and *(c)* Public Health England will ensure that (i) homeless persons and (ii) other excluded and disadvantaged groups are treated as a priority in the NHS. [57724]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have made tackling health inequalities a priority as part of their commitment to fairness and social justice. Subject to the parliamentary process, Local HealthWatch organisations will be the local consumer voice for patients and the public. Local HealthWatch organisations will be inclusive and reflect the views and experiences of their diverse communities. For the local health and wellbeing boards' forthcoming guidance on the joint strategic needs assessments and Joint health and wellbeing strategies, there will be an emphasis on the need to look at the health and care needs of the whole population, including vulnerable groups such as rough sleepers. In addition, the new Public Health England will have an important role in working with the national health service, local government and other agencies to reduce inequalities, enabling and supporting individuals and communities to improve their own health.

NHS: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on reviewing funding for the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [57936]

Mr Simon Burns: Funding for health, alongside all other public services, was reviewed and set for the next four years as part of the comprehensive spending review, published in October 2010. The majority of health funding is currently allocated to primary care trusts (PCTs) and this was most recently reviewed and set for the current financial year (2011-12) in December 2010.

For next year (2012-13), the usual process for reviewing the allocations of national health service funding continues. The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) continually oversees the development of the weighted capitation formula which is used to allocate PCT funding. It makes recommendations to the Secretary of State for Health on potential changes to the formula between PCT allocation rounds.

NHS: Private Patients

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases were referred to the NHS from private health providers after *(a)* operations and *(b)* other treatment which were considered unsatisfactory by (i) the patient and (ii) their doctor in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such referrals to the NHS. [57106]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected centrally.

NHS: Reforms

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that national priorities and commitments are maintained and fulfilled at a local level following implementation of proposed reforms of the NHS. [57725]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State remains accountable for the national health service. Subject to parliamentary approval for the Health and Social Care Bill, the Government will set national objectives and requirements for the NHS Commissioning Board through a mandate, and will hold the board to account for its performance. In turn, the board will hold commissioning consortia to account for the outcomes they achieve and the NHS resources used to achieve those results. The Secretary of State will also make a limited number of "standing rules" setting requirements for the board and consortia through regulations.

NHS: Research

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill to establish a duty on the Secretary of State and all relevant NHS bodies to promote research. [57713]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have used the natural break in the parliamentary timetable to take the opportunity to pause and listen to views on plans to modernise the national health service, including regarding the role of NHS bodies in promoting research. The Government will consider comments regarding the need to establish a duty on all relevant NHS bodies to promote research during the current pause and as the Bill progresses through Parliament.

NHS: Sick Leave

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what levels of staff sickness there were in the NHS in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010 for each (i) hospital trust and (ii) primary care trust. [57103]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Information Centre (NHS IC) has published monthly sickness absence rates in a quarterly publication derived from the Electronic Staff Record since April 2009. These can be found on its website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/workforce/sickness-absence

Rates for individual hospital trusts and primary care trusts can be found in Table 5 of the Excel tables.

There are no published sickness absence data for before April 2009 and the NHS IC does not publish annual rates.

Older People: Domestic Accidents

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to improve access to fall prevention services for elderly people; [57062]

(2) what steps he is taking to encourage older people at risk of falling to take part in evidence-based exercise programmes; [57063]

(3) what steps he is taking to encourage physical activity in older people. [57065]

Paul Burstow: The Prevention Package for Older People comprises information for commissioners on several aspects of falls and falls prevention services, including "Effective Interventions in Health and Social Care" that provides guidance on: improving patient outcomes and efficiency of care after hip fractures through compliance with core standards; responding to a first fracture and preventing the second; early intervention to restore independence—through falls care pathways, linking acute and urgent care services to secondary prevention of further falls and injuries; and preventing frailty, promoting bone health and reducing accidents—through encouraging physical activity and healthy lifestyle, and reducing unnecessary environmental hazards.

The Prevention Package, and other resources such as NHS Choices and the "Be active, be healthy" initiative all actively promote the value to people of all ages of a healthy lifestyle, including weight bearing exercise, exposure to natural daylight and a balanced diet to promote increased bone mineral density and so reduce the risks of osteoporosis and frailty in later life.

Older People: Weather

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to protect vulnerable elderly people from the effects of cold weather. [57060]

Anne Milton: There is substantial public health planning in England before and during the winter season.

Effective planning is dependent on joint partnerships with local government, the local civil society and the national health service. The Department also has worked with the Met Office on winter cold weather warning systems and a respiratory disease warning system for those working with vulnerable people.

The programme also includes the annual seasonal influenza vaccination programme which offers free flu jabs to people most at risk from potentially life-threatening complications of flu. The Government also ran a new website service, Winter Watch as well as its annual Keep Warm Keep Well Campaign for 2010-11 which provides advice on staying warm over the winter and staying in touch with people who may be vulnerable during cold weather, including the elderly, in order to reduce illness and deaths.

As part of our further work on effective public health for winter, the Department has been working with the Met Office, other Government Departments and public health champions in a number of regions to improve the way we communicate with people in local settings to accurately predict cold weather and provide an appropriate and effective response. A pilot project has been run this past winter of a draft cold weather plan with a view to having it in place for winter 2011-12.

Orphan Drugs

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that treatments for ultra orphan conditions are referred to the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services; and if he will make a statement; [57215]

(2) what steps he is taking to implement the recommendations of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence memorandum "Appraising Orphan Drugs"; and if he will make a statement; [57216]

(3) what discussions his Department has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on its memorandum "Appraising Orphan Drugs"; and if he will make a statement. [57217]

Mr Simon Burns: We have no plans to ask the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to establish a separate appraisal system for drugs for very rare conditions, nor have we had any recent discussions with NICE on its 2006 report on this issue.

The great majority of new drugs and significant licence extensions are considered through the topic selection process for NICE'S technology appraisal programme. If NICE considers that by undertaking an appraisal it would not be able to add value, then for high-cost, low-volume drugs for very rare conditions, NICE can send the technology to the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services (AGNSS) for assessment for possible inclusion in the arrangements for national specialised commissioning.

The requirements for entry into the AGNSS arrangements are set out in the statement of scope and the decision-making framework which are available on the specialised services website at:

www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/info/new-technologies

Paramedical Staff: Crimes of Violence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many paramedics in each region have been injured as a result of assault while on duty in each of the last three years. [57005]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of reported physical assaults against national health service staff is contained in the "Tables showing number of reported physical assaults on NHS staff from 2004-05 to 2007-08, broken down by NHS trust/PCT", "Tables showing number of reported physical assaults on NHS staff in 2008-09, broken down by NHS trust/PCT" and "Tables showing number of reported physical assaults on NHS staff in 2009-10, broken down by NHS trust/PCT" which have already been placed in the Library.

The tables show the number of reported physical assaults, but do not specify professional categories, whether an injury was sustained, or whether the member of staff was on duty when the assault took place.

Passive Smoking: Infants

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to investigate the health effects on infants of exposure to passive smoke in cars. [57472]

Anne Milton: The evidence of the potential for harm to children is already clearly proven and published worldwide so we have no further plans. Our focus now will be to determine the best way to change the behaviour of smokers to stop them exposing children and infants to the harm caused by second-hand smoke.

This summer, the Department will publish a new marketing strategy for tobacco control. This will set out further plans to encourage people to recognise the risks of second-hand smoke and to make their homes and private cars smoke-free.

Physiotherapy

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department plans to take to ensure patients' right to self-refer to NHS physiotherapy services is maintained under the any qualified provider model; [57218]

(2) what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the any qualified provider model with patient self-referral to physiotherapy; and if he will make a statement; [57219]

(3) what steps his Department plans to take to assess the adequacy of access to clinically appropriate physiotherapy services for patients with *(a)* Parkinson's disease, *(b)* multiple sclerosis, *(c)* musculoskeletal conditions, *(d)* fragility fractures and *(e)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease under the any qualified provider model; [57220]

(4) what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that patients *(a)* have access to physiotherapy services for as long as is clinically appropriate and *(b)* access to physiotherapy services is not restricted by reductions in NHS expenditure under the any qualified provider model. [57221]

Mr Simon Burns: National health service physiotherapy services are provided on the basis of assessed clinical need. It is for local commissioners to decide how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health and to commission services accordingly, in line with best practice guidelines. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community, including the provision of physiotherapy services.

We have published proposals for consultation on extending patient choice in the NHS. A copy of the consultation document, 'Liberating the NHS: Greater Choice and Control', has already been placed in the Library. However, we have since agreed to defer our response to this consultation in order to take account of the current listening exercise on NHS modernisation, including the report of the NHS Future Forum.

Prescriptions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many addresses for the writing and dispensation of prescriptions are registered in *(a)* in Bradford district and *(b)* England. [57404]

Mr Simon Burns: In primary care, prescriptions are generally written by prescribers within general practitioner (GP) practices. The following table provides information on numbers of GP practices for the latest available month.

Numbers of GP practices—February 2011

	Bradford and Airedale Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT)[1]	*England*
GP practices		
Actual practices	84	8,343
'Dummy' practices[2]	60	2,257
Total	144	10,600

[1] NHS Prescription Services do not hold figures for 'Bradford district'. Data are held by PCT boundary. Therefore data have been supplied for Bradford and Airedale PCT.

[2] GP dispensing practices are both prescribers and dispensers.

Source:

NHS Prescription Services

Prescriptions in primary care may be dispensed by community pharmacies, dispensing doctors or appliance contractors. The number for each category of dispenser is provided in the following table for the latest available month.

Numbers of dispensers

	Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT[1]	*England*
GP dispensing practices—February 2011[2]		
Actual practices	2	1,106
'Dummy' practices[3]	0	12
Other dispensers—March 2010[4]		
Community pharmacy contractors	117	10,691
Appliance contractors	3	137
Total	122	11,946

[1] NHS Prescription Services do not hold figures for 'Bradford district'. Data are held by PCT boundary. Therefore data have been supplied for Bradford and Airedale PCT.

[2] Dummy GP and dispensing practices are groups of prescribers set up by the PCTs, so that they can monitor the prescribing of contracted providers, such as out of hours providers, deputising services and clinics.

[3] GP dispensing practices are both prescribers and dispensers.

[4] Numbers of pharmacy and appliance contractors are accurate as at 31 March 2010. No reliable data are available for a later period.

Source:

NHS Prescription Services, NHS Information Centre

Respite Care: Finance

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department allocated for respite care in each local authority area in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [57399]

Paul Burstow: The carers grant was introduced in 1999 in recognition of carers' need for support. Councils were able to use this money to support carers with breaks and other services. Between 2005-06 and 2010-11 the carers grant was worth £1.275 billion. Since 2008, the grant has been paid to councils as part of the area based grant.

Detailed breakdown by local authority area are contained in the following local authority social services letters (LASSL):

LASSL (2004)—26;

LASSL (2005)—six;

LASSL (2006)—one; and

LASSL—(DH) (2007)—two

Copies of the LASSLs have been placed in the Library and are available on the following Department's websites at:

2005-06

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_4097307.pdf

2006-07

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_4124138.pdf

2007-08

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_063042.pdf

2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_081124.pdf

The funding for all existing Department of Heath revenue grants for adult social care continues and will rise in line with inflation during the current spending review period. This includes funding for the carers grant. In order to allow councils to be as flexible as possible and to reduce administrative burdens, this funding has been made available to councils through the local government revenue support grant.

Some £50 million was invested in primary care trusts' baseline allocations in 2009-10 and £100 million in 2010-11 for breaks for carers. We are providing additional funding of £400 million to the national health service over the next four years (2011-12 to 2014-15) to enable more carers to take breaks from their caring responsibilities.

School Milk

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has assessed the merits of extending the availability of the free nursery milk scheme to all children in reception class rather than ending it at their fifth birthday. [57536]

Anne Milton: The Department is not considering extending the scheme to children who are five years old and over.

Smoking: Young People

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to prevent youths harassing adults outside shops in order to encourage them to buy cigarettes for those youths. [57306]

Anne Milton: As set out in "Healthy Lives, Healthy People, A Tobacco Control Plan for England", published on 9 March 2011, the Department has commissioned a review of the evidence about the sources of tobacco for children, which will report back later this year. Future policy options will then be considered in light of the review's findings. A copy of the plan has already been placed in the Library.

Following the Home Office review of antisocial behaviour, it launched a consultation which outlines proposals to reform the toolkit for dealing with antisocial behaviour. Its aim is to reduce the bureaucracy, delay and cost that currently hampers the police and their local partners. The consultation closed on 17 May 2011.

Social Services

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the eligibility criteria were for Fair Access to Care services for each local authority as at 1 April 2011; and if he will make a statement; [57400]

(2) which local authorities changed their eligibility criteria for Fair Access to Care services in 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [57401]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not hold this information centrally. However, we are aware that councils have been restricting eligibility criteria for a number of years.

The recent Association of Directors for Adult Social Services survey, published on 12 May 2011, indicated that 19 of the 150 councils that responded had changed their eligibility criteria between 2010-11 and 2011-12.

In recognition of the pressures on the social care system in a challenging local government settlement, the spending review allocated an additional £2 billion by 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care. This means, with an ambitious programme of efficiency, that there is enough funding available to make it possible to protect people's access to care, without tightening eligibility.

Ministers recognise that this is a challenging settlement for local government, but if authorities are prepared to reform their services and drive down costs, then we believe that the investment from the national health service to social care, announced in the spending review, will enable them to protect the care that people receive.

Some councils are making changes such as sharing back office services, and caring for people in their own homes instead of in expensive residential care. By making these types of changes, councils can protect other front-line services.

We know reform of the system is needed. That is why we established an independent commission to consider how we can ensure affordable and sustainable funding for care and support for all adults in England into the future. The commission will report to us in July and we will set out our plans for further reform in a White Paper later this year.

Social Services: Finance

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was allocated by his Department for social care in each local authority area in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [57398]

Paul Burstow: The main source of Government funding for council services is formula grant which is distributed each year by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Formula grant is not allocated for separate service areas such as social care but provides general funding for all services. Details of all formula grant settlements are available at:

www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ssas.htm

As well as formula grant, funding for social care comes from specific grants allocated by the Department of Health, council tax and fees and charges paid by social care clients.

A table showing the total of all grants provided by the Department for each local authority from 2005-06 to 2011-12 has been placed in the Library.

Southern Cross Healthcare: Older People

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral answer by the Leader of the House on 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 509-10, what discussions he has had with *(a)* the management of Southern Cross Care Homes and *(b)* local authorities on contingency plans to safeguard the care and shelter of the residents of Southern Cross Care Homes. [57281]

Paul Burstow: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the right hon. Member for Warley (Mr Spellar) on 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 306W.

Stress

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department takes to assess levels of stress of its officials during pregnancy. [57136]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department adheres to the requirements of—and duties under—the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. The Department, in conjunction with line management, monitors the ability and capability of pregnant and expectant mothers. Assessments of the relevant facilities in the workplace take place immediately, when notified. New or expectant mothers complete an Initial Pregnancy Risk Assessment, a Second Trimester Risk Assessment, a Third Trimester Risk Assessment and a Post-Natal Risk Assessment. The Health and Safety Unit conduct the assessments of the relevant officers' work environment, as does the Department's Occupational Health Service Provider, where necessary.

The Department provides guidance to all staff and managers, including those who become pregnant, on stress recognition and stress management by way of the departmental intranet. Specifically, the Department's mental health policy covers prevention, early dialogue and identification, mutual understanding of issues and concerns together with setting out the support available to individuals and managers to help employees remain at work and perform to the best of their abilities. The support in place includes an Occupational Health Service, which has been designed specifically to meet the needs of the Department's employees. There is also a comprehensive Employee Assistance Programme, offering a free counselling service on a 24 hours, seven day a week basis and a helpline for managers.

Subarachnoid Haemorrhages

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment the NHS has made of the long-term outcomes of coiling procedures for the treatment of subarachnoid haemorrhages. [57003]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has made no assessment of the long-term outcomes of coiling procedures for the treatment of subarachnoid haemorrhages.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, whose role it is to provide advice and guidance to the national health service on clinical procedures, issued guidance to the NHS on management of intercranial aneurysms in January 2005 (IPG106). This is available at:

www.nice.org.uk/ip_38

Sunderland Hospital: Manpower

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were employed at Sunderland City Hospital on 1 April (i) 1997 and (ii) 2011. [57295]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not available in the format requested. Information on the numbers of medical and dental staff and qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff employed at City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust on 30 September 1997 and the same date in 2010 is shown in the following table.

	Headcount	
	1997	*2010*
Medical and dental staff	333	571
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,238	1,701

Notes:
1. The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years' data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the "NHS Workforce: Summary of staff in the NHS: Results from September 2010 Census" publication that has been placed in the Library.
2. Data are from the annual September Census. April data are not available for the requested years.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

Tobacco

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what peer review was undertaken on *(a)* the calculations of the cost of treating smoking-related illnesses contained in and *(b)* the research on the economic burden of tobacco use on society cited in the "Tobacco Control Plan for England"; [57511]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 1158-59W, on tobacco, what criteria he uses to determine the admissibility of representations on public policy from sectors with commercial interests in the policy outcome; [57701]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1158-59W, on tobacco, what obligations the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control places on the Government to protect tobacco control from vested interests of other industries. [57702]

Anne Milton: "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Tobacco Control Plan for England" included an appendix providing resources for tobacco control (pages 48-53). The references to the Policy Exchange's "Cough Up" report and the Action on Smoking and Health website provide further information on the costs of treating smoking related diseases and the economic burden on society of tobacco use, and the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control regarding the obligations that this treaty places on parties. Representations on public policy issues, including in the area of tobacco control, are regularly received from a number of interested parties and are all considered with due diligence. For example, when the Department carries out public consultations on policy initiatives it adheres strictly to the Cabinet Office guidance on representations from all parties.

A copy of the plan has already been placed in the Library.

Walking

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish a recommended average daily distance a healthy person should walk. [57135]

Anne Milton: We are not intending to publish guidance on the distance a person should walk daily to stay healthy, as this depends on individual fitness and other forms of physical activity they may undertake.

Brisk walking can contribute to achieving the recommended levels of physical activity either in its own right or in combination with other physical activities. At a walking pace of three to four miles per hour (considered to represent moderate intensity activity), an adult might need to walk 1.5 to 2 miles on five days a week to meet the chief medical officer's current guidelines for physical activity.

For general health benefit, adults should do a total of at least 30 minutes a day of at least moderate intensity physical activity on five or more days of the week.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) with reference to his Department's publication, "UK and Global Bioenergy Resource-Final Report", what conversion factor from oven-dry tonnes was used for estimating the price of UK wood feedstocks per gigajoule; [57478]

(2) with reference to his Department's publication, "UK and Global Bioenergy Resource-Final Report", what estimate his Department made of the price per oven-dry tonne of UK wood feedstocks for the large-scale electricity sector; [57479]

(3) with reference to page 7 of his Department's publication "UK and Global Bioenergy Resource-Final Report" what feedstock is referred to as being likely to reach £6 per gigajoule in the short to medium term. [57480]

Gregory Barker: The publication 'UK and Global Bioenergy Resource' was an independent report by AEA Technology plc, commissioned by DECC, to assess the potential supply of biomass in the UK from 2010-30. In order to do this, AEA used different price points—£4/GJ, £6/GJ and £10/GJ—and different assumptions about how far non-financial constraints to the development of the market are overcome. Figure 3.2 in the report shows the potential contribution that various feedstocks could make to biomass supply in the UK up to 2030, on the basis of different combinations of the assumptions. The £6/GJ price point does not refer to a specific feedstock but is one of the sensitivities set out in the report.

In estimating the price of UK wood feedstocks per GJ, the consultants used a conversion factor of 19 GJ/tonne for solid oven-dried wood, as listed on page xii of the report.

DECC will use the AEA report and other evidence to inform assumptions about the price of feedstocks for the large-scale electricity sector. We will publish these assumptions alongside the renewables obligation-banding review in the summer.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the average price of UK-sourced wood feedstocks for biomass energy generation. [57567]

Gregory Barker: DECC uses a range of assumptions for prices of biomass feedstocks given the range of current prices and uncertainty over future trends. Prices assumed in the heat sector were published alongside the details of the renewable heat incentive scheme in March 2011 at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk supply/energymix/renewable/policy/incentive/incentive.aspx

Assumptions for the large-scale electricity sector will be published alongside the renewables obligation banding review in the summer.

Carbon Emissions

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if his Department will undertake an impact assessment in respect of the effect of the Government's energy policy on global carbon emissions. [57053]

Gregory Barker: DECC looks at the impact of domestic climate change and energy policies on domestic carbon emissions. DECC's latest assessment of the impact of policies on emissions can be found in the DECC emission projections document published in June 2010:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Statistics/Projections/67-updated-emissions-projections-june-2010.pdf

DECC will published new emission projections by the end of the year. It is important to note that the analysis above does not take into consideration the impact of UK International Climate Finance on emissions in developing countries.

Carbon Emissions: Academies

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what recent representations he has received from local authorities that have academy schools within their boundaries concerning proposals to fine councils for failing to reduce carbon dioxide emissions across their estate; [57473]

(2) what his policy is on imposing financial penalties on local authorities in respect of carbon dioxide emissions from academy schools. [57474]

Gregory Barker: The Government are not proposing any fines for local authorities in relation to carbon reduction but under the provisions of the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme which started in April of this year those local authorities which meet the scheme's criteria will be required to purchase allowances reflecting the carbon content of their fuel use. A number of local authorities have provided views on the treatment of academies as part of the coalition Government's current simplification review of the scheme set up by the previous Administration. These representations are currently being analysed and will contribute to the simplification proposals on which we will formally consult in due course.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of his Department's employees categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* number of employees taking voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [57612]

Gregory Barker: DECC will be complying with the new Cabinet Office requirement to publish details of numbers of employees by seniority on a monthly basis.

DECC has no plans at present to publish details of natural wastage or the numbers of employees taking redundancy.

District Heating

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to encourage local authorities to require that new buildings connect to existing district heating networks. [56420]

Gregory Barker: Local authorities are already able to drive development of district heating systems in their areas, for example by setting out their support for district heating in local plans or by requiring that new buildings connect to existing networks and co-locate heat supply with heat demand.

In order to encourage action in this area, the Department recently launched Community Energy Online, a web portal which provides local authorities and their communities with information and advice about the deployment of community scale energy infrastructure, including district heating networks. The web portal is developed in partnership with leading organisations including the Planning Advisory Service and the Town and Country Planning Association who, like others, provide information and advice on connecting to district heating networks.

Electricity Generation

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the generating costs of *(a)* solar power and *(b)* other power generation technologies over the next 10 years. [57202]

Gregory Barker: The information is as follows:

(a) Solar PV costs were estimated by Element Energy in 2009. A more recent estimate by Mott Macdonald in 2011 for the Committee on Climate Change is also provided in table 1 as follows.

Table 1: Solar photovoltaics

Technology (source)	*Year*	*Capital expenditure (£/kW)*	*Operating expenditure (£/kW/ year)*	*Load factor (percentage)*
Solar photovoltaics up to 5 MW in size (Element Energy, 2009)	2009	4,000-5,300	20-44	[1]~10
	2020	1,765-2,787	13-44	[1]—
Solar photovoltaics up to 10 MW in size (Mott Macdonald, 2011)	Current	2,600-2,850	n/a	~10
	2020	1,226-1,268	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available

[1] Indicates brace

(b) The following table is taken from Mott Macdonald (2010) and gives levelised cost estimates (average generation cost per megawatt-hour) for new build plants in the main large-scale electricity generation technologies in the UK, including both fossil fuel and low carbon plant, at current engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract prices. It should be noted that these levelised cost figures are not directly comparable with the costs for solar PV in part *(a)*, which are expressed in terms of cost per unit of capacity, not output.

It should be noted that for the purposes of presentation, the table only gives either FOAK (first-of-a-kind) prices or NOAK (nth-of-a-kind) prices for each technology: NOAK for established technologies and FOAK for those technologies which are yet to be built in the UK or benefit from learning. These are appropriate comparators for current costs.

The full report including methodology and assumptions can be accessed via this link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Statistics/Projections/71-uk-electricity-generation-costs-update-.pdf

Table 1: 10% discount rate, 2009 project start at today's EPC prices, with mixed FOAK/NOAK

Levelised cost	*Gas CCGT*	*Gas CCGT with CCS (FOAK)*	*ASC Coal*	*ASC Coal with CCS (FOAK)*	*Coal IGCC (FOAK)*	*Coal IGCC with CCS (FOAK)*	*Onshore wind*	*Offshore wind (FOAK)*	*Offshore wind R3 (FOAK)*	*Nuclear PWR (FOAK)*
Capital Costs	12.4	29.8	33.4	74.1	61.7	82.0	79.2	124.1	144.6	77.3

Table 1: 10% discount rate, 2009 project start at today's EPC prices, with mixed FOAK/NOAK

Levelised cost	*Gas CCGT*	*Gas CCGT with CCS (FOAK)*	*ASC Coal*	*ASC Coal with CCS (FOAK)*	*Coal IGCC (FOAK)*	*Coal IGCC with CCS (FOAK)*	*Onshore wind*	*Offshore wind (FOAK)*	*Offshore wind R3 (FOAK)*	*Nuclear PWR (FOAK)*
Fixed operating costs	3.7	7.7	8.6	18.6	9.7	17.7	14.6	36.7	45.8	12.2
Variable operating costs	2.3	3.6	2.2	4.7	3.4	4.6	—	—	—	2.1
Fuel Costs	46.9	65.0	19.9	28.7	20.3	28.3	—	—	—	5.3
Carbon Costs	15.1	2.1	40.3	6.5	39.6	5.5	—	—	—	—
Decomm and waste fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.1
CO_2 transport and storage	—	4.3	—	9.6	—	9.5	—	—	—	—
Steam Revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total levelised cost	80.3	112.5	104.5	142.1	134.6	147.6	93.9	160.9	190.5	99.0

Source:
Mott Macdonald (2010), UK Electricity Generation Costs Update, available at:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Statistics/Projections/71-uk-electricity-generation-costs-update-.pdf

It should be noted that the estimates of levelised costs for different types of electricity generation are highly sensitive to the assumptions used for capital costs, fuel and EU ETS allowance prices, operating costs, load factor, and other drivers, meaning that there is significant uncertainty around these estimates.

In the year 2017, assuming that all technologies have been built at least once in the UK, the following NOAK costs may apply to all technologies. However, it should be noted that these costs are not considered achievable today.

Table 2: 10% discount rate, 2017 start at projected EPC prices, all NOAK

Levelised cost	*Gas CCGT*	*Gas CCGT with CCS*	*ASC Coal*	*ASC Coal with CCS*	*Coal IGCC*	*Coal IGCC with CCS*	*Onshore wind*	*Offshore wind*	*Offshore wind R3*	*Nuclear PWR*
Capital Costs	11.2	20.7	28.7	47.8	33.7	46.5	71.7	89.4	97.0	49.6
Fixed operating costs	3.7	6.0	8.6	13.8	8.0	12.3	—	23.0	30.9	9.1
Variable operating costs	2.3	3.6	2.2	3.7	2.7	3.6	—	—	—	1.8
Fuel Costs	49.8	64.7	19.9	27.6	19.6	27.2	—	—	—	5.2
Carbon Costs	29.6	4.1	73.8	11.4	72.0	10.0	—	—	—	—
Decomm and waste fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.1
CO_2 transport and storage	—	3.5	—	7.6	—	7.5	—	—	—	—
Steam Revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total levelised cost	96.5	102.6	133.2	111.9	136.0	107.1	86.3	112.4	127.9	67.8

Source:
Mott Macdonald (2010), UK Electricity Generation Costs Update, available at:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Statistics/Projections/71-uk-electricity-generation-costs-update-.pdf

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what cost-benefit analysis of demand-side energy market measures his Department has undertaken. [57321]

Gregory Barker: The Government published an impact assessment of the green deal and energy company obligation elements of the Energy Bill in December 2010. It can be found here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/legislation/energybill/1002-energy-bill-2011-ia-green-deal.pdf

A further cost-benefit analysis will be included in the impact assessment to be published at the start of the formal consultation on green deal secondary legislation in autumn 2011.

The Government also published two impact assessments of the smart meter rollout programme in March 2011. The impact assessment for the domestic sector can be found here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/consultations/smart-meter-imp-prospectus/1485-impact-assessment-smart-metering-implementation-p.pdf

The impact assessment for the non-domestic sector can be found here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/consultations/smart-meter-imp-prospectus/1484-impact-assessment-smart-metering-implementation-p.pdf

The consultation on Electricity Market Reform (EMR), published in December 2010 recognised that demand-side measures have an important contribution to make in supporting the transition to a low-carbon generating mix and ensuring security of supply. An impact assessment published alongside that consultation, which included qualitative analysis of demand-side response, can be found here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/emr/emr.aspx

DECC is currently developing a White Paper which will set out proposals for EMR; a further impact assessment will be published alongside this document.

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received from the European Commission on the state aid implications of his proposals for electricity market reform. [58035]

Charles Hendry: We have not received any formal communications to Ministers from the Commission on Electricity Market Reform in general or on state aids specifically. Department officials are regularly in touch with the Commission. Discussions on EMR are in their infancy, and have focused on explaining the background to, and the scope of, the reforms. We expect discussions to continue following the publication of the White Paper.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to announce whether his proposals for electricity market reform are to be subject to the control framework for levy-funded expenditure by his Department; and what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on this matter. [58040]

Charles Hendry: The decision on whether the electricity market reform proposals will be subject to the control framework for DECC levy-funded spending will depend on whether the policies are classified by the Office for National Statistics as tax and spend.

The principles governing the inclusion of policies in the control framework are set out in the question and answer document available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/What%20we%20do/UK%20energy%20supply/Energy%20mix/Renewable%20energy/1691-qa-info-levy-funded-spending.pdf

Electricity: Foreign Investment in the UK

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 234W, on electricity generation: foreign investment in the UK, what definition of negawatts his Department uses. [56198]

Charles Hendry: Negawatts is a term used to describe electricity saved through demand reduction measures; both the permanent energy efficiency savings secured by policies such as the green deal, and dynamic energy reductions through policies such as the capacity mechanism.

Electricity: Prices

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has received representations from the European Commission on potential non-compliance with state aid provisions of the treatment of the nuclear industry by his Department's proposals for *(a)* contract for difference feed-in tariffs and *(b)* a floor price for carbon in its consultation on electricity market reform. [57723]

Charles Hendry: We have not received any formal communications to Ministers from the Commission on Electricity Market Reform in general or on state aids specifically. Department officials are regularly in touch with the Commission. Discussions on EMR are in their infancy, and have focused on explaining the background to, and the scope of, the reforms. We expect discussions to continue following the publication of the White Paper.

Energy

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has made to the World Bank on its draft energy strategy. [58060]

Charles Hendry: The UK has engaged with the World Bank throughout the period of its energy strategy review. Most recently, the International Development Secretary spoke to the Development Committee[1] at the Spring Meetings where he stressed that the bank needs to ensure that the Energy Strategy meets the twin goals of sustainable energy production and increasing the access of poor people to energy. The UK continues to support the inclusion in the strategy of a target to increase the percentage of lending for clean energy and a shift away from lending for coal fired power stations toward cleaner energy sources as it is here that we believe the financing challenges to be greatest.

[1] Full text of the Secretary of State for International Development's speech to the Development Committee on 16 April is available at:

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMMINT/Documentation/22891473/DCS2011-0035-UnitedKingdom.pdf

Energy Performance Certificates: Fines

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many fines have been levied on landlords of *(a)* commercial and *(b)* residential properties for non-compliance with regulations on the provision of energy performance certificates since the entry into force of such regulations. [57417]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not hold this information. Local authority weights and measures authorities have been given the responsibility for enforcing the duties relating to energy performance certificates through

Regulation 38 of the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. Trading Standards Officers have discretion to determine the appropriate action in each case. This will range between providing information and assistance to issuing warnings or a penalty charge notice.

Energy: Billing

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which of his Department's policies are subject to the control framework for levy-funded expenditure by his Department. [58036]

Gregory Barker: Three policies are subject to the control framework for the levy funded expenditure. These are warm home discount, renewables obligation and feed-in tariffs.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential effects of classification of the Energy Company Obligation as levy-funded expenditure. [58037]

Gregory Barker: How new policies that entail levy-funded expenditure are accommodated within the control framework will be determined on a case-by-case basis. If the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is classified as tax and spend then the Government would expect to make some increase to the levies cap to accommodate this. Controlling the impact of ECO on consumer bills and ensuring its aims are met cost-effectively will be central to its design irrespective of whether it is classified as tax and spend and subject to the control framework, or as regulation.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what discussions at *(a)* Ministerial and *(b)* official level were held within his Department on the control framework for levy-funded expenditure by his Department prior to the 2011 Budget; [58038]

(2) whether there were discussions at *(a)* ministerial and *(b)* official level between his Department and the Treasury on the control framework for levy-funded expenditure by his Department prior to the 2011 Budget. [58039]

Gregory Barker: DECC Ministers and officials have frequent meetings with their ministerial colleagues and officials as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has rejected any policies considered unviable under the control framework for levy-funded expenditure by his Department since the 2011 Budget. [58050]

Gregory Barker: No policies have been rejected on this basis.

Energy: Housing

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely average cost to the consumer of a green deal assessment. [57679]

Gregory Barker: The green deal is a market initiative, therefore we expect the cost of the assessment to be determined by the market. We also anticipate that some green deal providers will provide assessments at no upfront cost, as part of their broader green deal offer. Our legislation allows for this approach.

Energy: Prices

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on classification of expenditure on the Energy Company Obligation as part of his Department's levy control framework. [57687]

Charles Hendry: The Department is in regular discussion with HM Treasury over the levy control framework, and over issues relating to the future Energy Company Obligation (ECO). ECO will fall within the control framework for levies-funded policies only if it is classified as a tax and spend policy. Classification decisions are made by the Office for National Statistics which has yet to consider the classification of ECO.

Energy: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he received a request from *(a)* members of the Welsh Government or *(b)* the Secretary of State for Wales between 6 May and 20 May 2011 to meet to discuss issues relating to energy in Wales and its territorial waters. [57471]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State and Ministers in his Department regularly receive requests from members of the Welsh Government and the Secretary of State for Wales to discuss energy issues in relation to Wales.

Fuel Poverty

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to alleviate fuel poverty in *(a)* the north-east and *(b)* other rural areas. [57880]

Gregory Barker: There are a number of policies designed to help tackle fuel poverty across England. Examples of these are:

Warm Front—has assisted 83,299 households in the North East, and 184,472 households in rural areas in England since 2005.

The carbon emissions reduction target—has assisted 137,000 households in the north-east through professionally installed insulation measures (March 2008 to March 2010).

Community energy savings programme—there are a number of projects in the north-east providing energy efficiency measures.

Community energy solutions—a pilot scheme funded by DECC, installed around 500 air source heat pumps to rural communities in the north-east.

We are developing green deal, including a new Energy Company Obligation, which will provide all households, including those in rural areas, with access to energy efficiency measures.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the potential of introducing rising block tariffs to reduce household gas and electricity consumption alongside mechanisms to protect fuel poor consumers from any resulting disadvantage; and if he will make a statement. [58056]

Gregory Barker: Under present arrangements, suppliers are free to respond to consumer demand in their pricing systems. The Government are keen to see a range of different tariff offers under these present arrangements rather than mandating any one particular pricing system which could constrain innovation. In addition, we share the concern that fuel poor consumers and others living in poorly insulated housing could be made worse off under a system of rising block tariffs.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the merits of *(a)* levying charges on the basis of kilowatt-hours of energy consumed to pay for the renewables obligation, feed-in tariffs, the warm homes discount and the energy company obligation and *(b)* introducing mechanisms to protect fuel-poor consumers from any adverse effects of levying charges in this way; and if he will make a statement. [58074]

Gregory Barker: The existing schemes mentioned have been established in law on the basis that they will be funded by the energy companies. The Government do not specify the precise approach energy companies can take to charging consumers and currently has no plans to revisit this principle.

The share that each relevant obligated company must contribute to the overall requirement is set in terms of share of overall customer numbers or, as is the case with the renewables obligation and feed-in tariffs, the volume of energy sold. The potential impacts of these approaches on lower income and vulnerable households is assessed prior to legislation. We will consult on these issues before secondary legislation for the new energy company obligation.

Ministerial Duties

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer since May 2010; and on what subjects in each case. [58041]

Gregory Barker: DECC Ministers and officials meet regularly with their counterparts in HM Treasury and other Departments to discuss a range of issues. As has been the case with successive Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Nuclear Power

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether he plans to have further discussions with his EU counterparts who are signatories to the Paris and Brussels Conventions on third party nuclear liability following the recent events in Fukushima; [57442]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the Paris Convention and Brussels Supplementary Convention on nuclear third party liability, including on the level of cover from nuclear companies to be provided following the recent events in Fukushima. [57444]

Charles Hendry: The discussions I have had so far with my EU counterparts have largely related to ensuring the safety of nuclear installations and making sure that we, together with the international nuclear community, learn the lessons from Fukushima. These discussions continue to evolve and they may in the future cover issues around third party liability.

Officials who are leading on the implementation of the changes to the Paris and Brussels conventions continue to keep contact with their counterparts in the EU states that are signatories to the conventions.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has assessed the merits of re-consulting on his proposals for implementing the 2004 Protocols amending the Paris Convention on nuclear third party liability and the Brussels Supplementary Convention following the recent events in Fukushima. [57445]

Charles Hendry: The consultation on the implementation of the revised Paris and Brussels conventions closed on 28 April and officials are now assessing the responses. We considered the merits of extending the consultation period following the events at Fukushima and concluded that it was in the best interest of the public to secure the benefits of the proposed changes at the earliest opportunity. There are no plans to re-consult.

The financial consequences of Fukushima will take some time to emerge and the right thing to do is to make improvements in the third party liability regime as soon as we can. Going ahead with our implementation of the revised Paris and Brussels Conventions will significantly improve the current liability regime: it will increase the financial responsibility placed on operators and increase the scope of damage for which victims can claim and the amount of compensation they can claim.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the proposals for implementing the 2004 Protocols amending the Paris Convention on nuclear third party liability and the Brussels Supplementary Convention. [57446]

Charles Hendry: The consultation on the implementation of the changes to the Paris and Brussels Conventions on nuclear third party liability ran from 24 January to 28 April 2011. The consultation set out the Government's policy in the area of nuclear third party liability including our clear commitment to implementing the changes to the Conventions that bring about significant improvements to the arrangements.

My officials are currently reviewing all the responses to the consultation that the Department has received. We intend to publish a summary of the responses and a Government response in due course.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received from commercial nuclear insurance companies on the extent of insurance coverage in the event of a nuclear accident in the UK. [57447]

Charles Hendry: The Government published on 24 January a consultation on their proposals to implement the changes to the Paris and Brussels Conventions on nuclear third party liability. The consultation closed on 28 April. The consultation set out the Government's understanding of the extent to which commercial nuclear insurance would be available to cover the new liabilities, introduced by the revisions to the Conventions.

My officials are currently reviewing all the responses to the consultation received by the Department, including those from insurers. We intend to publish a summary of the responses and a Government response in due course.

Nuclear Power Stations: Safety

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the proposal by the chairperson of the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group that the European Union-wide stress tests for EU nuclear plants should include the implications of aircraft crashes. [58051]

Charles Hendry: Security arrangements at the UK's civil nuclear installations are kept under constant review as part of a continuous process to ensure existing arrangements are robust and effective.

However, security is the primary responsibility of member states and details of civil nuclear security arrangements are highly sensitive and cannot be disclosed widely or to an international audience. The UK Government therefore support the scope and modality of the EU stress test as proposed by ENSREG and agreed by the European Commission and EU member states which does not include security issues.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 983W, on nuclear safety, whether any changes have been made in security provisions at UK nuclear installations as a result of any internal review following the accident at Fukushima; and what guidance was given to the chief nuclear inspector in respect of the meeting of the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group in relation to the scope of the proposed EU-wide stress tests. [58052]

Charles Hendry: Security arrangements at the UK's civil nuclear installations are kept under constant review as part of a continuous process to ensure existing arrangements are robust and effective. We do not comment on the detail of operational security matters at civil nuclear sites.

The UK Government fully respected the independence of the chief inspector of the Office for Nuclear Regulation in discussions on the development of the scope and modality of the stress test criteria. However, security at nuclear facilities is outside of the scope of expertise of the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG), so it is the UK view that security matters should not be dealt with in this forum.

Nuclear Power: Emergencies

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will initiate a review of the Japanese response to the Fukushima nuclear emergency to identify any lessons for public contingency planning for widespread nuclear emergencies including evacuation planning and execution. [57439]

Charles Hendry: In his interim report on the implications of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami for the UK nuclear industry, the chief inspector of nuclear installations, Mike Weightman, recommended that:

> "The Government should consider carrying out a review of the Japanese response to the emergency to identify any lessons for UK public contingency planning for widespread emergencies, taking account of any social, cultural and organisation differences."

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) is currently considering the interim report's recommendations and will provide a formal response within the one month timetable suggested in the report.

Nuclear Power: Research

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will list the research and development programmes on *(a)* reactor safety, *(b)* Generation IV reactors and *(c)* radioactive waste management currently sponsored by his Department; how much funding his Department has allocated in each such case to date; if he will list those nuclear fission research and development programmes overseas for which his Department has a watching brief; what the monetary cost to his Department is of maintaining such a watching brief in each such case; and what value for money assessment has been made of such (i) research and development programmes and (ii) watching briefs. [56816]

Charles Hendry: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) does not directly sponsor research programmes on nuclear power or radioactive waste management.

However, nuclear-related analysis, research and development is conducted by Government organisations and comprises:

A study currently being undertaken for DECC under contract by the National Nuclear Laboratory, which aims to provide further analysis of the potential benefits of next generation reactor designs. The contract value of this work is £30,000.

The independent nuclear safety regulator, the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), commissions nuclear safety research across a wide range of areas associated with its remit to protect people and society from the hazards of the nuclear industry.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) is a non-departmental public body sponsored by DECC. The NDA is required to carry out research in support of its functions through the 2004 Energy Act. The NDA's research is essential to take forward the management of higher activity radioactive wastes.

DECC maintains a watching brief on three international nuclear programmes, for which there are no membership costs. The programmes are: Generation IV International Forum (GIF) which is looking to develop the next generation of nuclear reactors through international collaboration; International Atomic Energy Agency's International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO); International Framework for Nuclear Energy Co-operation (IFNEC), which was formerly the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP).

Further research into nuclear energy is funded by the research councils. These activities receive funding through the science budget administered by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

Nuclear Reactors

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether any potential nuclear operators have made applications to establish a funded decommissioning programme for new nuclear reactors. [57443]

Charles Hendry: The Energy Act 2008 requires any operator of a new nuclear power station to have a funded decommissioning programme, approved by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), in place before construction of a new nuclear power station begins and to comply with this programme thereafter.

No funded decommissioning programmes have yet been submitted by prospective new nuclear operators for approval by the Secretary of State. However DECC officials are in regular contact with prospective operators regarding possible future submissions.

Oil: Pollution

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment he has made of the capacity of oil companies to cap wells in UK deep waters; [57458]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the oil industry about the potential deployment of well capping devices in the North sea; [57459]

(3) what assessment he has made of the capacity of the oil industry to fund clean up of oil spills from deep sea rigs in the North sea without public funds; and if he will make a statement. [57460]

Charles Hendry: Following the Macondo incident, the UK's offshore oil and gas industry established a joint industry and Government Group—the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Advisory Group (OSPRAG)—to review the UK's ability to prevent and respond to oil spills. This group, in which DECC participates, identified the need for a dedicated UK capping device that could be used on a variety of wells, not just those in deep water, and industry is currently constructing a device for deployment in UK waters. This should be ready for use by late summer.

In addition, Chevron, who are currently drilling on the UK continental shelf (UKCS), have developed a capping stack for the Stena Carron deepwater drilling operations that is located in Stonehaven (near Aberdeen) and can be deployed within nine days of an incident.

There are also other devices which are commercially available, that could be deployed to an incident worldwide, and one of the well control companies has decided to locate a device in Aberdeen to supplement the equipment that is currently located in Houston.

In the UK, unlike the USA, there is no limit on companies' liability for clean-up and compensation. Operators on the UKCS maintain insurance or make other provisions to cover drilling and other operational risks together with the legal liabilities associated with clean-up or other remediation measures. For all new drilling operations, my Department requires confirmation that appropriate insurance cover is in place.

In addition, operators are parties to the Offshore Pollution Liability Association Ltd (OPOL). This requires operators to demonstrate separate provision to meet third party clean-up costs and associated damages of up to $250 million in the event of a pollution incident. OPOL members collectively also provide a back-up mechanism in the form of a guarantee in the event of operator default, to meet claims for clean-up and associated damages up to the same financial limits. The Department also carries out checks to confirm membership of OPOL.

OSPRAG has also set-up a sub-group to review liability, indemnity and insurance provisions that would be invoked in the event of a spill. This group is currently undertaking a study to look at estimates of the cost of oil spill clean-up in the UK and whether the OPOL limit is sufficient to cover these costs. DECC is participating in this work.

Professional Organisations: Subscriptions

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many subscription or membership fees for *(a)* the Chartered Institute of Public Relations and *(b)* other professional organisations were paid from budgets of his Department in respect of its staff in each of the last three years. [57349]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate (DECC) has not taken out any subscriptions or memberships with the Chartered Institute of Public Relations over the last three years.

DECC records expenditure on subscriptions and membership fees but does not specifically collect data on the number of subscriptions and memberships held. It would incur disproportionate costs to investigate all payments to determine how many individual fees and subscriptions were paid for. Membership fees and subscriptions are taken out for a number of reasons. DECC pays membership fees to secure UK representation on eight international energy and climate change bodies. Where staff hold or are training for professional qualifications they are required to subscribe to professional institutes, for example accountants, lawyers, economists. DECC also takes out subscriptions to access a wide range of printed and electronic data required to deliver the Department's objectives.

Radioactive Waste

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether any potential nuclear operations in the UK have made applications for a waste transfer price contract for wastes and spent fuels for new nuclear reactors. [57441]

Charles Hendry: Several prospective operators have expressed an interest in entering a waste transfer contract with Government as part of their possible future submission of a funded decommissioning programme for a new nuclear power station. EDF have requested an indicative "expected price" in the context of their preparation of a funded decommissioning programme for Hinkley Point C.

The Government have consulted on a proposed waste transfer pricing methodology and are now considering responses to this consultation, but do not intend to enter into any detailed negotiations of a waste transfer contract prior to issuing the consultation response.

Radioactivity

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what measurements were made of *(a)* concentrations and *(b)* activities of (i) plutonium and (ii) uranium in UK air in (A) March and (B) April 2011. [57243]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

The Environment Agency, working with Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, monitors air and rain at seven locations around the UK. The analysis and reporting is mainly on a quarterly basis, with some variations and the analytical requirements are given in the table. Under this Euratom programme, analyses for uranium are not carried out at any location. Samples from Aberporth in Wales are analysed for certain isotopes of plutonium in both air and rainwater and the Environment Agency reports these annually. All the results are reported in the annual publication "Radioactivity in Food and the Environment". The latest report (2009) is available on the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) website.

The Environment Agency adjusted its programme slightly during March and April to check on radionuclides arriving from the Fukushima accident in Japan. The particular adjustments were to analyse filters that were changed weekly before normal processing, to ensure that short half-life radionuclides were analysed appropriately. Results from this Fukushima-related monitoring have been placed on the Health Protection Agency's website.

Analytical requirements for particulate and rainwater samples

Location	*Particulate samples** (Bq kg^{-1} of air)*	*Rainwater concentrations and total deposition samples (Bq^{-1} and Bq m^{-2})*
Aberporth	^{137}Cs, ^{7}Be* Quarterly ^{238}Pu, ^{239,240}Pu, ^{241}Am Annually	^{137}Cs, ^{7}Be* Monthly ^{137}Cs, ^{7}Be* Quarterly ^{3}H Quarterly ^{238}Pu, ^{239,240}Pu, ^{241}Am Annually
Chilton***	^{137}Cs, ^{7}Be* Monthly	^{137}Cs, ^{7}Be* Monthly ^{137}Cs, ^{7}Be* Quarterly Total alpha, Total beta Annually Gamma Spec Annually ^{90}Sr Annually
Conlig	^{137}Cs, ^{7}Be* Quarterly	^{137}Cs, ^{7}Be* Quarterly
Dishforth	^{137}Cs, ^{7}Be* Quarterly	^{137}Cs, ^{7}Be* Quarterly
Eskdalemuir	^{137}Cs, ^{7}Be* Quarterly	^{137}Cs, ^{7}Be* Quarterly ^{3}H Quarterly
Lerwick	^{137}Cs, ^{7}Be* Quarterly	^{137}Cs, ^{7}Be* Quarterly
Orfordness	^{137}Cs, ^{7}Be* Quarterly	^{137}Cs, ^{7}Be* Quarterly ^{3}H Quarterly

* Plus any other radionuclides detected by gamma spectrometry.

** Filters are changed weekly or monthly and collected and washed before analysis.

*** The Chilton filter is taken off weekly and counted by gamma spectrometry before treatment to provide a quick screen for short half-life and volatile radionuclides.

As part of the conditions of their permits, the Environment Agency requires some nuclear sites to sample air and specifically to analyse the samples for plutonium and uranium. The sites include Harwell, Sellafield, LLWR, Springfields and AWE-Aldermaston.

Renewable Energy

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the financial implications for businesses participating in the CRC energy efficiency scheme of the decision to end revenue recycling; and if he will make a statement. [58132]

Gregory Barker: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies) on 4 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1018-19W.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to provide assistance in respect of initial capital outlay for those converting domestic heating systems under the renewable heat incentive. [57881]

Gregory Barker: £15 million has been set aside under the renewable heat premium payments scheme to help families with the initial capital outlay for the installation of renewable heating systems in their homes. This will help up to 25,000 residents with the up-front costs of qualifying installations.

Successful applicants to the premium payment scheme will then be eligible for the RHI domestic tariff scheme which launches in October 2012, provided they meet the eligibility criteria for the tariff scheme.

Full details of how the premium payment scheme will work are to be published very shortly and the scheme will launch this summer.

Solar Power

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 888W, on solar power, what estimate he has made for international benchmarking purposes of the amount of solar power generated in countries with large solar power sectors in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [58073]

Gregory Barker: The International Energy Agency's Photovoltaic Power Systems (PVPS) Implementing Agreement provides a country by country analysis of solar PV development, including installed capacity, for the 25 participating countries. The annual report for 2010[1], which analyses 2009 data, shows that installed capacity for the 25 participating countries during 2009 was 6.2 GW, which was about the same capacity as in 2008.

The greatest proportion (74%) of the 6.2 GW of solar PV installed in 2009 was in Germany and Italy alone. By comparison, approximately 80 MWp was installed in the UK.

[1] IEA PVPS Implementing Agreement Annual Report 2010 (p11)
http://www.iea-pvps.org/index.php?id=3

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the total monetary value is of feed-in tariff payments made for *(a)* solar photovoltaic schemes and *(b)* all permitted technologies in (i) Cornwall and (ii) the rest of the UK since April 2010. [57552]

Gregory Barker: This information is not yet available in the form requested. However, Ofgem has published data from the quarterly levelisation process which show a total of £6,206,235 paid for all technologies up to 31 December 2010. Levelisation data can be viewed at:

www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/fits/Levelisation/Pages/Levelisation.aspx

Levelisation data for 1 January to 31 March 2011 will be made available on Ofgem's website soon.

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the potential effects of the feed-in tariff review on the solar industry in Cornwall and the south-west; and what funding mechanisms he is considering to provide future support for that sector. [57490]

Gregory Barker: The recent consultation on the fast-track review of the feed-in tariffs scheme was accompanied by an impact assessment which considered the effects of the consultation proposals. This is available on the DECC website:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/fit_review/fit_review.aspx

The Department did not produce a specific impact assessment for Cornwall and the south-west.

We received over 500 consultation responses which we are now considering. We will confirm the outcome of the consultation shortly.

Technical Advisory Panel

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who the members were of the Technical Advisory Panel set up by the Office for Nuclear Regulation to assist the chief nuclear inspector in his preparation of his interim report on the "Japanese earthquake and tsunami: Implications for the UK Nuclear Industry"; whether any other experts were nominated to serve on the Technical Advisory Panel but not appointed; and what additional resources were provided to the Office for Nuclear Regulation to support the work of the chief inspector and the Technical Advisory Panel on the report. [57440]

Charles Hendry: The Technical Advisory Panel was set up by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) to provide independent technical advice to the chief inspector on the emergent findings following the events at Fukushima. They were invited to focus on the technical evidence and facts available at the time and provide contributions to both the interim and final report. The Technical Advisory Panel members are shown in the following table.

Member	*Nominated by*
Robin Grimes	Imperial College
Joe McHugh	The Environment Agency
Jim Gemmill	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Paul Howarth	National Nuclear Laboratory
Mark Gorry	EDF Energy
Anastasios Zodaites	Prospect
Edmund Booth	Royal Academy of Engineering
John Earp	Nuclear Institute
Kevin Horsburgh	National Oceanographic Centre

ONR sought representation from non-government organisations and one nomination was proposed but did not take up appointment.

ONR set up a dedicated project support team to lead and support this work, including a technical support team, covering aspects of the Fukushima accident that are likely to be important in learning lessons. The ONR's costs in preparing this report were met from its existing budget, which is largely recovered from industry.

Full information concerning the Technical Advisory Panel is publically available on the ONR website at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/fukushima/tap.htm

Wind Power

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential financial benefits to communities of offshore wind farms; and for how long he expects any revenue stream to such communities from such farms to last. [57428]

Charles Hendry: A number of developers have developed community benefit packages for offshore wind farms and the precise detail of these packages will vary from development to development. Offshore wind developers and communities are able to discuss and agree specific benefits packages between themselves in relation to individual developments.

Offshore wind will be critical to the UK in meeting our renewable energy and carbon reduction targets and development can bring financial benefits to communities from construction of the wind farm, from manufacturing and assembly of components and from ongoing operation and maintenance over the operational lifetime of the wind farm. The Government are also providing up to £60 million for offshore wind manufacturing infrastructure at port sites in assisted areas in England. Attracting major wind manufacturing to the UK will enable us to realise the maximum economic potential this sector offers. It will also generate high value opportunities in the supply chain, a significant proportion of which are likely to be located close to these manufacturing operations.

Wind Power: Greater London

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress his Department has made on the tender for an offshore transmission owner for the London Array wind farm. [57864]

Gregory Barker: Ofgem, the independent regulator, has responsibility for running the competitive tender process to appoint offshore transmission owners to own and operate offshore transmission assets. Ofgem commenced the second transitional tender round, which includes the London Array Phase 1 offshore wind farm, on 17 November 2010, and announced shortlisted bidders for the projects in this round in April 2011.

TREASURY

Business: Regulation

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the 2011 Budget, HC 836, page 3, what estimate he has made of the average potential benefit to *(a)* all businesses and *(b)* small and medium-sized enterprises from discontinuing existing proposals for specific regulations which would have cost business over £350 million a year. [55709]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

The regulations that contribute to the £350 million cost reduction for business include: extension of the right to request time to train to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), extension of right to request flexible working to parents of 17 year-olds, dual discrimination and third party harassment.

Right to request time to train

For the right to request time to train, we are not able to estimate the how many businesses will benefit on average as a result of this decision as costs are calculated on a per request basis not a per business basis. We estimated in the impact assessment (IA) we published in January 2010 that the cost of dealing with a successful request would be around £319. This covers an estimated procedural cost of £90 for dealing with the request and £229 for accommodating the request.

Extension of right to request flexible working to parents of 17-years-olds

We also announced that we would no longer extend the right to request flexible working to parents of 17-year-olds to any business regardless of size. The published IA does not break this down by business size for the same reason as the right to request time to train. The IA estimated that the cost of dealing with requests would be approximately £62 per initial request and £123 per appeal. For accepted request the costs of accommodating the requests are estimated at £241.24.

Dual Discrimination

The £3 million set out in the Plan for Growth in respect of dual discrimination is drawn from the assessment by the Government Equalities Office of the costs and benefits associated with the commencement of the dual discrimination provisions.

Costs to private sector employers: It is estimated that there would have been a £15.1 million transitional costs to private sector employers. This can be further broken down to an equivalent annual figure with a cost to SMEs per annum of £1.6 million, and the cost to large employers of £0.02 million per annum. There would also be costs as a result of dual discrimination cases against private sector employers of £1.0 million per annum. It is not possible to accurately state what proportion of this cost would fall on SMEs[1] or large employers.

Third party harassment

The £0.3 million set out in the Plan for Growth in respect of third party harassment is drawn from the impact assessment by the Government Equalities Office on the Equality Act published at Royal Assent in April 2010.

Costs to private sector employers: annually recurring (per year) cost of additional cases (£80,093 - £323,573) in 2009 prices—range low/high).

HM Treasury used the high figure as the potential annual saving to business of removing this provision.

[1] SME 1-249 employees. Large is 250+ and figures do not include the voluntary sector

Carbon Emissions

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what methodology he used to determine the price levels of carbon price support in *(a)* his Department's consultation on the carbon price floor and *(b)* schedule 20 of the Finance (No. 3) Bill; and what the reason is for the difference between those price levels. [57520]

Justine Greening: The consultation asked for views on how best to implement a carbon price floor, including how the Government should determine future market prices of carbon upon which to base carbon price support rates. For illustrative purposes the consultation used the Government's long-term carbon price forecast as modelled by DECC.

The Government response to the consultation on Wednesday 30 March 2011 confirmed that a market-based approach would be used to determine carbon price support rates as this was the option preferred by respondents. The Finance Bill reflects this approach.

The Government's response is available online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/carbon_price_floor_consultation_govt_response.pdf

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what impact assessment his Department has undertaken on the effects on energy-intensive industries of the introduction of carbon price support. [57632]

Justine Greening: An assessment of the impacts of the carbon price floor is given in HMRC's Tax Information and Impact Note published alongside the Budget. This is available online at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6111.pdf

Child Benefit

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely change in the purchasing power of child benefit in the next three financial years. [57570]

Mr Gauke: The following table shows the estimated average change per week per child as a result of comparing the rates of child benefit uprated by the retail prices index with freezing the rates for three years from April 2011.

			£
	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*
Forecast change first child	-0.55	-1.65	-2.40
Forecast change subsequent child	-0.35	-1.05	-1.55

Child Benefit: Applications

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether his Department has a target for the time taken to process applications for child benefit; [56742]

(2) what the average time taken to process applications for child benefit was *(a)* in the latest period for which information is available and *(b)* in each month of the last five years; [56743]

(3) how many parents have waited more than one month for their child benefit application to be processed in each month of the last five years. [56744]

Mr Gauke: In 2011-12, HM Revenue and Customs aim to pay new claims to child benefit in an average of 23 calendar days with 70% of new claims paid in 12 calendar days.

Performance out-turn in relation to the timeliness of processing new child benefit claims in each month of 2006-07 to 2010-11 inclusive is shown in the following tables:

2006-07

	Aim	
	To process 69% of claims in 5 working days	*To process 95% of claims in 36 working days*
April	72.5	96.6
May	66.9	94.3
June	68.3	94.7
July	70.3	94.8
August	72.1	96.1
September	66.5	94.2
October	65.3	94.0
November	66.3	94.2
December	66.4	95.9
January	70.1	94.9
February	68.0	94.0
March	66.8	95.2

2007-08

	Aim	
	To process 69% of claims in 5 working days	*To process 95% of claims in 36 working days*
April	67.4	94.2
May	64.4	95.6
June	66.4	97.1
July	61.2	94.7
August	65.3	96.5
September	63.1	94.2
October	62.0	92.2
November	64.1	93.3
December	65.4	91.9
January	71.9	93.9
February	62.6	93.4
March	60.4	90.7

2008-09

	Aim	
	To process 69% of claims in 9 working days	*Pay new claims in an average of 20 calendar days*
April	62.1	27.7
May	64.1	23.1
June	59.4	29.0
July	62.3	29.2
August	62.3	26.6
September	62.6	33.2

	Aim	
	To process 69% of claims in 9 working days	*Pay claims in an average of 20 calendar days*
October	63.8	27.7
November	65.2	29.6
December	70.7	29.3
January	71.1	27.6
February	67.2	31.4
March	73.8	19.0

2009-10

	Aim	
	To pay 66% of claims in 9 working days	*Pay claims in an average of 20 calendar days*
April	75.33	27.7
May	74.04	24.19
June	72.92	26.91
July	69.13	32.70
August	70.33	31.72
September	68.15	38.46
October	68.52	27.7
November	69.67	30.61
December	73.14	28.34
January	74.53	22.21
February	74.43	27.16
March	73.03	30.96

2010-11

	Aim	
	To pay 69% of claims in 9 working days	*Average number of calendar days to pay*
April	72.91	29.82
May	73.51	21.37
June	71.77	25.86
July	71.95	22.76
August	71.92	21.98
September	69.10	27.23
October	71.69	23.70
November	72.65	23.36
December	75.67	23.82
January	77.3	24.27
February	76.03	20.46
March	74.64	25.93

Information on the number of child benefit claimants who have waited for more than one month for their claim to be processed in each month of the last five years is not maintained in the format requested.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints his Department has received on the length of time taken to process a child benefit application in each month of the last five years. [56745]

Mr Gauke: Specific information on the numbers of complaints about the length of time taken to process a child benefit application in each month of the last five years is not available. Information on the number of child benefit-related complaints in the last four years is provided in the following table:

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
April	53	210	164	245
May	56	158	199	182
June	69	169	257	174
July	68	207	311	245
August	67	166	224	237
September	70	239	268	276
October	78	230	419	239
November	337	211	382	252
December	565	187	402	175
January	270	227	465	194
February	671	186	474	164
March	308	184	360	247
Totals	2,612	2,374	3,925	2,630

Child Benefit Office received a total of 623 complaints in 2006-07. No monthly breakdown of this figure is available.

Child Care Tax Credit: Barnsley

Michael Dugher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Barnsley East constituency are in receipt of childcare tax credit. [58013]

Mr Gauke: As at April 2011 there were 800 families in Barnsley East constituency receiving the child care element of working tax credit.

The information in this answer is based on HMRC's tax credits snapshot interim data. More information can be found at the HMRC website.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-apr11.pdf

Corporation Tax

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely effect of the reduction in the rate of corporation tax announced in the 2011 Budget on the level of growth in each year from 2011-12 to 2015-16. [52378]

Mr Gauke: In its March 2011 Economic and Fiscal Outlook, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has forecast further increases in business investment from 2011 onwards.

The OBR has stated that the cost of capital is the fundamental determinant of business investment in the long-run. The additional corporate tax measures announced at Budget 2011 provide further reductions in the cost of capital for firms and will promote higher levels of business investment.

The Government's aim is to create the most competitive tax regime in the G20. The reductions in corporation tax rates announced by the Government will support this aim and, based on announced plans, in 2014-15 the UK will have the fifth lowest rate in the G20 and will continue to have the lowest rate in the G7.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department took to implement the recommendations of the Thirtieth Report of the Committee of Public Accounts, Session 2007-08, Management of Large Business Corporation Tax, HC 302, prior to May 2010. [57559]

Mr Gauke: The Committee of Public Accounts made 11 recommendations in its Thirtieth Report of the 2007-08 Session.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs accepted eight of the Committee's recommendations and has implemented these fully or partially. The Department has not implemented three of the Committee's recommendations.

Recommendations implemented:

1. On publishing analysis showing distribution of Corporation Tax paid (published in 2009—to be updated).

3. On publishing distribution of CT inquiries by value (published in 2009-to be updated).

4. On completing 95% of inquiries within 18 months (partially implemented and ongoing: HMRC's Large Business Service has a target for 2011-12 of 85%).

5. On evaluating the effectiveness of the Customer Relationship Manager Role.

6. On developing and publishing a robust measure of the Corporation Tax gap (partially implemented and ongoing—estimates for Large Business Service component published 2009 and 2010).

7. On sharing information with other tax authorities.

10. On publicising the Department's approach to high and low risk businesses and robustly applying the new penalty regime.

11. On assessing the numbers and skills of staff needed and developing a linked training programme (partially implemented and ongoing).

Recommendations not implemented:

2. On publishing an annual analysis of the use of reliefs by industry sector.

8. Government to consider whether to introduce consolidated CT returns.

9. On indicators of tax avoidance.

HMRC will publish a full update on the PAC recommendations in its departmental report in July 2011, showing outstanding recommendations and progress towards them.

Corporation Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many private sector enterprises he expects to benefit from the reduction in the main rate of corporation tax to 26%. [57491]

Mr Gauke: Around 45,000 companies that pay tax at the main rate, and around 40,000 that are taxed at the main rate but who receive marginal relief will benefit from the reductions in the main rate of corporation tax announced in the last two Budgets.

While the majority of companies benefiting will be in the private sector, exact information is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to encourage charitable giving by Ministers in his Department. [57115]

Justine Greening: All Government Ministers have pledged to spend time supporting a charity or community group of their choice.

Departmental Compensation

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) paid out in *(a)* compensation and *(b)* goodwill payments in respect of mistakes and errors by HMRC in each of the last five years. [53860]

Mr Gauke: We do not distinguish payments as "compensation" and "goodwill". Total payments made under HMRC's ex-gratia financial redress policy for 2006-07; 2007-08; and 2008-09 are contained in the HMRC Annual Reports. The information is available from the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

For 2009-10 the payments made totalled £3.74 million, including a single, exceptional payment of £1.2 million. For 2010-11 payments totalled £1.41 million.

Departmental Data Protection

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* data protection breaches and *(b)* confidentiality breaches were made by HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five years. [53859]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has kept a central record of all security incidents reported by staff or members of the public since 2007. This central record was formed in support of the Cabinet Office reporting requirements put in place following the Data Handling Review. HMRC was created in 2005 at which point security incidents were managed locally within the legacy departments. This approach continued until the central recording method began in 2007. This central record includes all security incidents involving the unauthorised disclosure of customer or protectively marked information. These records cover both unauthorised disclosures that were accidental and those that were deliberate.

Security incidents that are data protection breaches are reported to the Information Commissioner's Office in accordance with the guidelines.

	ICO reported
2007-08	9
2008-09	6
2009-10	1
2010-11	0

Where staff are suspected of either accessing or deliberately disclosing information without authorisation, HMRC will investigate and oversee disciplinary proceedings that may lead to dismissal. This process is continually being refined to improve the ability to identify these types of occurrences. Depending on the nature of the incident it is also possible for staff to be prosecuted if they has breached the Data Protection Act and/or the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act. Since 2007 HMRC has had 35 such cases where fraud has been investigated, i.e. staff suspected of deliberate unauthorised disclosure

	Investigations
2007-08	4
2008-09	8
2009-10	14
2010-11	[1]9

[1] April to September

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the name is of each contractor or supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to his Department. [56062]

Justine Greening: Mobile telephone and mobile data services are provided to HM Treasury by Vodafone Corporate Ltd.

Departmental Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data his Department has (A) initiated,

(B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months; and what such research and data collection exercises undertaken by the Department have not been amended in that period. [56752]

Damian Green: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Disadvantaged: Financial Services

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that money and debt advice is available to people who do not have access to the internet. [57909]

Mr Hoban: Advice on money and debt is available from a wide range of sources and through various channels, including the internet, the telephone, and face-to-face. The Money Advice Service, established in the Financial Services Act 2010, is providing a national money advice service, which is available via telephone and face-to-face channels for those for whom online advice is impractical or inappropriate. Publicly supported debt advice services are also available across a range of channels.

Employment Agencies

Mike Freer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on *(a)* recruitment agency fees, *(b)* outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff and *(c)* staff training in the last year for which figures are available. [51396]

Justine Greening: The Treasury spent £59,000 on recruitment agency fees, £9,000 on outplacement fees and £1,159,000 on staff training during 2010-11. The figures are provisional and subject to audit by the National Audit Office as part of the annual audit of the Department's resource accounts.

Enterprise Investment Scheme

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much additional investment he expects to arise from changes (1) to the enterprise investment scheme announced in the 2011 Budget *(a)* for businesses directly benefiting from the changes and *(b)* across the economy; [52533]

(2) to venture capital trusts announced in the March 2011 Budget *(a)* for businesses directly benefiting from the changes and *(b)* across the economy. [52537]

Mr Gauke: Estimates of the Exchequer impact of the proposed changes to the enterprise investment scheme and venture capital trusts relief were published at Budget in the policy costings document available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/2011budget_policycostings.pdf.

The post-behavioural costing takes into account a net increase in annual investment in both schemes totalling around £200 million resulting from the changes. The reduction in the rate of corporation tax will help to support investment growth through reducing the cost of capital.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of extending the scope of excise duty on hydrocarbon oils to all forms of shipping and aviation for the purposes of raising finance for the Green Climate Fund; and if he will make a statement. [58068]

Justine Greening: The UK welcomes the UNFCCC decision to set up the Green Climate Fund and will participate actively to ensure the fund can deliver results, impact and value for money. Decisions on any UK contribution will be made when the fund's capacity to deliver results, impact and value for money is clear. Furthermore, the UK has already announced in the most recent spending review that £2.9 billion is to be spent on international climate finance over the next four years.

Financial Services Compensation Scheme

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is on establishing a sub-class for the general insurance broking sector within the revised Financial Services Compensation Scheme; [57482]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of recent trends in the levy on general insurance brokers in respect of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme; [57483]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect on costs for insurance brokers of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. [57486]

Mr Hoban: The Government appreciate that the levies applied to some members of the broking industry have increased over the last financial year.

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is responsible for the funding arrangements for the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), under powers in the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and associated legislation.

Furthermore, the FSCS is responsible for setting levies on firms within the rules and limits set by the FSA. These rules specify the levies that may be collected from each class of firm and the apportionment of levies between individual firms within each class.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect on consumers of reviewing the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. [57485]

Mr Hoban: It is essential that the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) is able to pay out compensation to all eligible policyholders. Without certainty of payout, consumer protection is substantially weakened. It is therefore vital that the FSCS is able to raise resources in a range of circumstances to compensate consumers effectively.

The rules governing the FSCS are set by the Financial Services Authority (FSA), which has commenced a review of the funding model of the FSCS. It will proceed to a formal consultation and cost benefit analysis once discussions on European directives affecting compensation arrangements have been concluded and the Government's policy on the future role of the FSCS in the context of reform of the regulatory architecture for financial services has been settled.

Gift Aid

Henry Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to introduce a mechanism to enable charities to claim back tax up to £5,000 per annum through the gift aid scheme; and what mechanism he plans to establish. [57512]

Justine Greening: At Budget 2011 the Chancellor announced the introduction of the new gift aid small donations scheme. The scheme will allow charities to claim a gift aid style payment on up to £5,000 of small donations received each year without the need to collect gift aid declarations from donors.

HMRC is consulting informally on the details of the scheme over the summer, with the aim of publishing draft legislation for formal consultation later in the year.

The scheme is planned to start from April 2013.

Income Tax: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* London whose tax liability will be reduced as a result of the increase in the income tax personal allowance in 2011-12 for those aged (i) 65 to 74 and (ii) over 75. [57160]

Mr Gauke: Personal allowances for those aged 65-74 and 75 and over rise from £9,490 and £9,640 respectively in 2010-11, to £9,940 and £10,090 respectively in 2011-12. Personal allowances for individuals aged over 65 who have incomes above £24,000 in 2011-12 are gradually reduced to the personal allowance for those aged under 65, which rises from £6,475 in 2010-11 to £7,475 in 2011-12.

In the London Government Office region, an estimated 257,000 individuals aged 65-74 and 183,000 individuals aged 75 and over are estimated to see a reduction in their income tax liability as a result of the increases in personal allowances described above.

These estimates are based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes, projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook.

Reliable estimates are not available at the parliamentary constituency level, due to greater uncertainties in projections for small geographical areas and small sample sizes.

Income Tax: Warrington

David Mowat: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people who will *(a)* no longer pay income tax and *(b)* have their income tax payments reduced in (i) Warrington South constituency and (ii) the borough of Warrington a result of the rise in the personal allowance in (A) 2011-12 and (B) 2012-12. [57137]

Mr Gauke: Personal allowances for those aged under 65 have increased by £1,000 in 2011-12 to £7,475, and will increase by £630 in 2012-13 to £8,105.

Reliable estimates are not available at the parliamentary constituency and local authority level, due to greater uncertainties in projections for small geographical areas and small sample sizes.

In the North West and Merseyside Government Office region, an estimated 100,000 are taken out of income tax and 2.52 million basic rate taxpayers gain from the increase in the personal allowance in 2011-12, in 2012-13, 28,000 will be taken out of income tax and 2.68 million taxpayers will gain from the increase in the personal allowance.

These estimates are based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes, projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook.

Insurance: EU Law

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had at EU level on the Insurance Guarantee Scheme Directive; and when he expects a final text to be drafted. [57484]

Mr Hoban: The Treasury submitted a UK response, with the FSA, to the European Commission's White Paper on Insurance Guarantee Schemes in November 2010. The Treasury has regular discussions with European stakeholders on a wide range of financial services dossiers, including the proposed Insurance Guarantee Scheme Directive. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

The Government expect the European Commission to make a legislative proposal in the second half of 2011 and negotiations will then commence on the dossier.

Mortgages

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans his Department has to make it easier for people who are not in a relationship to share the mortgage for a property. [57558]

Danny Alexander: Decisions concerning the pricing and availability of mortgages are commercial decisions for individual banks and building societies. The Government do not seek to intervene in these decisions.

Northern Rock plc

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to receive recommendations from UK Financial Investments Ltd in relation to the future of Northern Rock plc. [54872]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* UKFI are looking at the full range of alternatives for divestment, and are exploring options based on maximising value for the taxpayer, maintaining financial stability and paying due regard to promoting competition. All exit strategies for Northern Rock plc will be considered with the final decision on the sale of Northern Rock made by the Chancellor.

Public Expenditure

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on each socio-economic group of the reductions in public expenditure announced in *(a)* the June 2010 Budget and *(b)* the comprehensive spending review. [57163]

Danny Alexander: At Budget 2011 the Government published detailed distributional analysis of the impacts of their decisions. Looking at the cumulative impact of tax, tax credit and benefit reforms introduced at the last Budget and previous fiscal events, the top decile sees the largest losses. This is the case across the income distribution, in both cash terms (Chart A.2) and , as a proportion of net income (Chart A.3). It is also the case across the expenditure distribution, in cash terms (Chart A.4) and as a proportion of expenditure (Chart A.5).

Chart A.6 in the Budget document shows that, after combining the impact of tax, tax credit and benefit and public service spending changes, the top 20% of households will make the greatest contribution towards reducing the deficit as a percentage of their income and benefits in kind from public services.

Revenue and Customs: Deloitte

Mr David Davis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of how many cases involving the settlement of tax liabilities of over £10 million HM Revenue and Customs has had discussions with Deloitte in the last three years. [57560]

Mr Gauke: The requested information is not centrally held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Social Enterprises: Renewable Energy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether community renewable energy projects with social enterprise company structures whose electricity generation commences after 6 April 2012 will be eligible for the enterprise investment scheme or venture capital trusts. [57454]

Justine Greening: Legislation will be introduced in Finance Bill 2012 providing that companies whose trade consists wholly or substantially in the receipt of feed-in tariffs will only be eligible for the enterprise investment scheme or venture capital trusts where commercial electricity generation commences before 6 April 2012. The change will not apply to any shares issued before 23 March 2011.

The change is designed to improve the focus of the schemes on smaller, higher risk companies. Draft legislation will be published for consultation before it is implemented.

Tax Allowances: Age

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of using age-related tax allowances. [53001]

Mr Gauke: The age-related allowances provide support for individuals on low and middle incomes aged 65 and over, and form part of the Government's overall package of support for pensioners.

The age-related allowances mean that those aged 65 and over on the lowest incomes, up to around £10,000, are taken out of tax altogether and ensures that those with incomes up to around £29,000 pay less tax than individuals under 65. HMRC estimate that only 45% of individuals aged 65 and over will be liable to income tax in 2011-12.

Tax Collection: Appeals

Tessa Munt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions individual tax codes were changed to recover tax arrears while appeals against recovery of underpayments were under way in 2010. [57450]

Mr Gauke: The information is available only at a disproportionate cost.

HMRC does not hold a central record of cases where tax codes were changed to recover underpayments or details of how many of these involved ongoing ESC A19 claims at the time when the codes were changed. HMRC revise codes and change tax codes on a regular basis for its customers as part of our normal processing.

Tax Credit: Income

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what analysis his Department has carried out of the effect on income levels in each income decile of *(a)* reducing the second income threshold for tax credits to £40,000, *(b)* increasing the first and second withdrawal rates of tax credits to 41 per cent., *(c)* tapering the family element of the child tax credit immediately after the child element, *(d)* removing the baby element of the child tax credit, *(e)* removing the 50-plus element of the working tax credit and *(f)* removing the supplement for toddlers. [54199]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 5 May 2011]:* The measures to which the hon. Member refers are part of a range of reforms to the tax credits system announced at the emergency budget and spending review.

Estimating the impact of an individual measure does not give a clear indication of the full monetary impact on an individual household.

The Government published estimates of the distributional impact of the packages of announced tax and benefit measures which can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_annexa.pdf

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_annexb.pdf

Taxation

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people have been issued with incorrect tax codes in each year since 1997; [53846]

(2) in how many cases individuals have been issued with an incorrect tax code owing to errors by *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* the individual in each year since 1997. [53849]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for East Dunbartonshire (Jo Swinson) on 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 684W.

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the amount of tax owed to HM Revenue and Customs by persons issued with incorrect tax codes in each of the last five years; in how many cases HM Revenue and Customs charged interest to persons owing tax as a result of being issued with an incorrect tax code; what estimate he has made of the administrative cost to HM Revenue and Customs of the issue of incorrect tax codes; and in how many cases in each of the last five years HM Revenue and Customs has written off tax owed due to an incorrect tax code being issued; [53847]

(2) how much tax is owed to HM Revenue and Customs due to the issue of incorrect tax codes that has been *(a)* written off or *(b)* left unrecovered in each of the last five years; and what the 10 largest amounts written off or left unrecovered are. [53848]

Mr Gauke: The information is available only at disproportionate cost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many notice to file a tax return forms were automatically sent out by HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five years. [53856]

Mr Gauke: The numbers of self-assessment tax returns issued by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) over the past five years with a due date of 31 January are provided in the following table:

Tax return	*Due by*	*Number issued (million)*
2009-10	31 January 2011	10.0
2008-09	31 January 2010	9.7
2007-08	31 January 2009	9.5
2006-07	31 January 2008	9.3
2005-06	31 January 2007	9.3

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many notice to file a tax return forms were sent to people who had previously notified HM Revenue and Customs that they no longer used self-assessment in the last year for which figures are available. [53857]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not hold this information.

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many reportable errors were made by HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five years. [53858]

Mr Gauke: HMRC reports financial errors in the Department's annual accounts as a note "Losses and special payments". These annual accounts are laid in Parliament but are also available on the internet via:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

This publication also contains the report by the Comptroller and Auditor General on specific areas of audit review by the National Audit Office.

In addition the Adjudicator provides a service to independently investigate complaints involving mistakes and other areas of reported poor service.

The Adjudicator's reports can be found on the internet from the following link:

http://www.adjudicatorsoffice.gov.uk/

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the overall tax base of tax increment financing projects in England. [53991]

Mr Gauke: There are currently no tax increment financing projects in England. We are considering options for implementing tax increment financing as part of our work on the Local Government Resource Review. The review will cover a range of issues including the potential impact that tax increment financing could have on public finances.

Taxation: Construction

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the total amount of deductions was held by HM Revenue and Customs under the Construction Industry Scheme as at *(a)* 31 March 2008, *(b)* 31 March 2009, *(c)* 31 March 2010 and *(d)* 31 March 2011; [54817]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on sub-contractors of their inability to obtain refunds for the deductions due to them from HM Revenue and Customs under the Construction Industry Scheme until after the end of each tax year. [54810]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 9 May 2011]*: HMRC does not hold the data requested about deductions held under the Construction Industry Scheme.

No assessment has been made of the effect on sub-contractors of not being able to obtain refunds of the deductions until after the end of the tax year because HMRC seeks to make a prompt payment of any refund of deductions made under the Construction Industry Scheme due to sub-contractors entitled to receive them.

VAT

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to review value added tax legislation; and whether the removal of exemptions will form part of that review. [56877]

Mr Gauke: All taxes, including VAT and the scope of its exemptions, are kept under review.

VAT: Financial Services

Conor Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the levying of value added tax on outsourced insurance-related services which are currently exempt from value added tax in the UK. [53360]

Mr Gauke: Discussions concerning an EU Commission proposal that would modernise the VAT exemption for financial and insurance services have taken place at the Council of Ministers Working Party level for several years and are continuing under the Hungarian presidency. These have included the issue of the VAT treatment of outsourcing in the insurance sector. The matter was discussed by Ministers as part of an overall orientation debate on the dossier at the November 2010 ECOFIN.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Sky Broadcasting: News Corporation

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) on what date he last met with representatives of Ofcom to discuss News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB; [58027]

(2) on what date he last met with representatives of the Office of Fair Trading to discuss News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB; [58028]

(3) on what date he last met with representatives of News Corporation to discuss their proposed acquisition of BSkyB. [58029]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I last met with the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and the Office of Communications (Ofcom) on 24 March, and with News Corporation on 20 January to discuss News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB.

Broadband

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 346-47W, on broadband, when he intends to publish the high speed broadband balanced scorecard; and how often he plans to update it. [58130]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: We intend to publish the scorecard during the summer. It will be updated annually.

Communications Bill

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will publish the responses he has received to his open letter on his proposed Communications Bill. [58172]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: A summary of the responses to the open letter on the communications review will be published alongside the Green Paper at the end of 2011.

Construction: Standards

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the compliance of its Executive agency with OGC Common Minimum Standards for the Built Environment when commissioning construction projects. [57026]

John Penrose: The Royal Parks is this Department's only agency and it is currently working towards compliance with OGC Common Minimum Standards for the Built Environment when commissioning construction projects.

Creative England

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when Creative England's long-term business plan will be published. [58026]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Following a consultation period at the start of the year, Creative England intends to publish its long-term business plan by September 2011.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what meetings he has had with the heads of the regional screening agencies on the creation of Creative England. [58173]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I have not met with any of the heads of the regional screen agencies (RSA) to discuss the creation of Creative England; however my officials have been involved in a number of discussions with the RSA on this subject.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of his Department's employees categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* number of employees taking voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [57615]

John Penrose: The Department provides regular updates on its headcount and natural wastage through its annual report and accounts, and monthly returns to the Office for National Statistics. We have no plans to provide more regular updates given the administrative burden this entails.

Departmental Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data his Department has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months; and what such research and data collection exercises undertaken by the Department have not been amended in that period. [56765]

John Penrose: The information you have requested can be found in the following table:

Project type	*Research*	*Data collections*
Longitudinal		
Initiated		Taking Part longitudinal panel
Terminated		Licensing statistics (moved to Home Office)
Amended		
Other		
Initiated	Creative Industry (CI) Small/Medium Enterprises access to finance	

Project type	Research	Data collections
	Digital Radio cost-benefit analysis	
	Volunteering analysis via Culture and Sport Evidence programme (CASE)	
	CASE database update	
	Philanthropy research via CASE	
	CASE local profile tool	
	Analysis of Taking Part data	
	Broadband impact evaluation	
Terminated		Free swimming data
Amended	CI outputs	Taking Part survey

Other data collections and research projects that remain unchanged are as follows:

Olympics meta-evaluation

Country and Regional Analysis

DCMS Sponsored Museum Monthly Visits

University Museum Visits

Jobs, Skills, Futures Employment and Skills update

Geographical distribution of contracts

Museum Key Performance Indicators

Export of Objects of Cultural Interest

Portable Antiquities and Treasure

Whole of Government accounts (WGA)

Laying of sponsored bodies annual reports and accounts

Annual public bodies directory

Broadband Rollout programme Monitoring data

Finance statistics

HR statistics

Lottery grants database

Football

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what recent meetings he has had with the Football Association on football governance; [58169]

(2) what recent meetings he has had with the Football League on football governance; [58170]

(3) what recent meetings he has had with the FA Premier League on football governance. [58171]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Along with the Minister for Sport and the Olympics, I meet regularly with the Football Association, the Premier League and Football League, as we take forward our commitment to work with these bodies to help reform football's current governance arrangements and support the co-operative ownership of football clubs by supporters.

We look forward to receiving the report from the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee on football governance before setting out our intentions in this area.

Intellectual Property and Growth

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he last met the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to discuss the Hargreaves review of intellectual property and growth. [58168]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I regularly meet with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to discuss a range of subjects and views. Although we have not met specifically to discuss the Hargreaves review of intellectual property, this has been a part of more general discussions.

The Minister for Intellectual Property, Baroness Wilcox, together with Ian Hargreaves, and I have met representatives from the creative industries to discuss the Hargreaves review.

There have also been regular meetings between Baroness Wilcox and the Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries (Mr Vaizey); at which the review was one of the topics for discussion.

Music: Licensing Laws

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with Phonographic Performance Ltd on licensing requirements for occupants of private offices who listen to a radio owned by an individual where the public cannot hear the radio broadcast. [57105]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

These issues are for the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), who has responsibility for intellectual property matters. However, neither the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills nor the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), have had any specific discussions with Phonographic Performance Ltd on this point.

Ofcom

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 632W, on the Digital Economy Act 2010, when he expects to receive the report from Ofcom on the technical workability of reserve site blocking provisions. [58128]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I have now received Ofcom's report on the workability of sections 17 and 18 of the Digital Economy Act. We will consider the report carefully and publish it and the Government's response in due course.

Olympic Games 2012

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1059W, on the Olympic games 2012, what criteria he plans to use to determine who would qualify as *(a)* a domestic political leader and *(b)* dignitaries and others with a close connection to the games for the purposes of allocation of tickets. [57905]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic and Paralympic games are a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the UK to showcase itself to a massive international audience, and the Government will use this unique opportunity for the benefit of the whole of the UK.

The objective of Government's Olympic and Paralympics Games Domestic Dignitary programme is to ensure that dignitaries represent the UK at the full range of sporting and cultural events in London; including supporting the teams and carrying out media duties. It will provide opportunities for Government to represent the UK with other international dignitaries and promote the UK, as well as providing a memorable experience for dignitaries who have made a significant contribution to the games, or whose organisation is operational at the games.

The Government are in the process of assessing the allocation of tickets to support the dignitary management programme.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1059W, on the Olympic games 2012, for which events the Government have applied for tickets; and what the basis is on which those events were chosen. [57964]

Hugh Robertson: The Government have bid for a selection of tickets at different price categories for a wide range of events covering all days of the Olympics. The tickets will be used to support a domestic dignitary management programme on behalf of central Government. Where appropriate, we plan to charge for these tickets. In addition, some tickets will be used for international guests who are not accredited to the games (only sovereigns, heads of state/Government and Sports Ministers are accredited) and for international business guests in support of securing economic benefits.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1059W, on the Olympic games 2012, what criteria he plans to use to determine which staff are eligible to apply for the 3,000 tickets. [57965]

Hugh Robertson: A ballot has been set up to allow a range of public servants, who have worked closely on the games for over a year, the opportunity to purchase a pair of tickets at face value.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1059W, on the Olympic games 2012, if he will publish a list of Olympic tickets the Government have obtained; to whom they were allocated; and the cost to the public purse of such tickets when the information is available to his Department. [58107]

Hugh Robertson: After the games, the Government will publish a list of those dignitaries to whom they allocated tickets, the cost to Government of those tickets, and the number of staff who purchased tickets.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1059W, on the Olympic games 2012, what criteria he plans to use to decide who is invited to use the 6,000 tickets not being made available to staff. [58108]

Hugh Robertson: The bid for dignitary tickets covers Government Departments and some host venue towns and cities outside London.

Government tickets will be used for a variety of purposes including inviting and accompanying a number of international and domestic political and business leaders, as well as dignitaries and others with a close connection to the games and its legacy.

The venue towns and cities will buy their allocations under their host county or borough agreements with LOCOG and will offer tickets to civic leaders, local influencers, or other local causes at their discretion.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1059W, on the Olympic games 2012, what proportion of the 6,000 tickets will be used by the Government for liaison with international and domestic political and business leaders, dignitaries and others with a close connection to the games. [58109]

Hugh Robertson: The figures will change between now and the Olympic games, but on current forecasts, we expect around two-thirds to be used by central Government and around one-third to be used by venue towns and cities outside London.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on the economy of Northern Ireland of the London 2012 Olympics; [58112]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on the economy of Wales of the London 2012 Olympics; [58113]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on the economy of Scotland of the London 2012 Olympics; [58114]

(4) what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on the economy of London of the London 2012 Olympics; [58115]

(5) what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on the economy of the north-west of the London 2012 Olympics; [58116]

(6) what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on the economy of the north-west of the London 2012 Olympics; [58117]

(7) what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on the economy of the west midlands of the London 2012 Olympics; [58118]

(8) what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on the economy of the east midlands of the London 2012 Olympics; [58119]

(9) what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on the economy of the east of England of the London 2012 Olympics; [58120]

(10) what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on the economy of the south-east of the London 2012 Olympics; [58121]

(11) what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on the economy of the south-west of the London 2012 Olympics. [58122]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The whole of the UK stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the 2012 games, through businesses winning games-related work, increased tourism and cultural celebrations. London 2012 has already brought significant new opportunities for UK businesses especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is responsible for developing and building the venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 games. As of May 2011, 1500 businesses have supplied the ODA from across the UK. Thousands of businesses up and down the UK are working on the games through supplier contracts worth in excess of £5 billion.

For the specific nations and regions you have requested, the number and value of contracts awarded by the ODA can be found in the following table:

Nation or region	*Number of suppliers*	*Committed spend to date (£)*
East midlands	44	338,986,781
East of England	138	830,382,444
London	759	3,284,082,889
North-east	22	11,863,982
North west	53	104,181,567
South-east	233	1,005,464,742
South-west	67	11,490,188
West midlands	60	450,045,065
N. Ireland	5	18,043,690
Scotland	25	24,476,220
Wales	10	417,415

These figures do not include the value of contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA. The ODA estimates that the total value of supply chain contracts to the regions runs into millions of pounds, but these are not public procurements and so the full value of contracts won across the UK is not captured by the figures provided. The ODA estimates that overall up to 50,000 contracts will be generated throughout its supply chains.

All companies in the UK have the opportunity to register an interest for London 2012 business opportunities on CompeteFor, the London 2012 supplier website. For the specific nations and regions you have requested, the number of companies who have registered and been awarded contracts through CompeteFor can be found in the following table:

Nation or region	*Number of companies registered on CompeteFor*	*Number of contracts awarded via CompeteFor*
East midlands	7,691	89
East of England	16,098	227
London	41,275	783
North-east	3,945	30
North-west	8,315	103
South-east	23,806	297
South-west	8,440	70
West midlands	10,727	304
N. Ireland	1,688	8
Scotland	3,905	42
Wales	3,391	46

In addition, the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is now ramping up procurement for £700 million worth of goods and services it requires to stage the games.

Pre-games training camps will provide an opportunity to create further economic benefits, including inward investment, through the international attention that will follow. Facilities across the nations and regions that met the criteria to be world-class training venues are included in the official London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp Guide. The guide has been produced in an online form and is accessible at:

http://trainingcamps.london2012.com

Agreements are now in place in nations and regions for teams to use the facilities in preparation for the games.

Further assessment of the growth being created in the UK because of the London 2012 games can be found in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Quarterly Report, the most recent of which was published in May and can be found at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/DCMS_GOE_QR_May_2011.pdf

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many tickets for the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics have been allocated to schools in *(a)* London, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales and *(e)* Northern Ireland. [58131]

Hugh Robertson: The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) has placed 6.6 million tickets for the London 2012 Olympic games on sale to the UK public, including special prices for young people in a "Pay Your Age" scheme for over 200 sessions. Further tickets will go on sale for the Paralympic games in September, with prices for young people starting at £5. As the Paralympic games take place in term-time, LOCOG will particularly encourage school groups to attend by providing group packages.

In addition to the main ticketing process, LOCOG has also announced a scheme called Ticketshare. Through a levy on those purchasing hospitality packages for the London 2012 games, Ticketshare will donate up to 100,000 tickets for children and young people in schools and colleges across the UK. To be eligible, schools and colleges need to apply to join the Get Set Network, part of LOCOG's education progamme. 50,000 of these tickets will go to schools and colleges in London, and 50,000 will go to schools and colleges across the rest of the UK. In addition, the Mayor of London has provided 75,000 additional tickets for London schools and colleges.

The tickets will be distributed through the Get Set network, and therefore the numbers to each nation/region will depend on the number of schools and colleges that apply by the deadline of Friday, 16 December 2011.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure (1) that *(a)* jobs and *(b)* growth in all parts of the UK benefit from the London 2012 Olympics; [58175]

(2) the legacy of the London 2012 Olympics will benefit all parts of the UK. [58176]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The whole of the UK stands to benefit from the London 2012 games, including those through direct contracts and their supply chains; from tourism, the investment in sport and through the opportunities for schools and young people.

The Nations and Regions Group, established by the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) and the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG), works directly with each UK nation and region to help them realise and maximise the benefits from the economic, sporting and cultural opportunities offered by the games.

The games will also provide a focus for the tourism industry. The Government's tourism policy, published in March, aims to help the tourism industry achieve its potential for growth through a range of measures. This initiative aims to generate 4 million extra overseas visitors over the next four years bringing in an extra £2 billion worth of visitor spend and helping to create 50,000 new jobs across the country.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and LOCOG procurements continue to provide business opportunities for companies across the UK, in particular the SMEs which benefit from supply chain opportunities. LOCOG is now accelerating its procurement programme. It is procuring £700 million worth of contracts for goods and services across eight sectors—including performance and events, security, sports and technology. It will require a workforce of around 200,000 people, including 6,000 staff, up to 70,000 volunteers and up to 100,000 contractors. The procurement process for contractors was launched at the end of 2009 and most of the contracts will be awarded by the end of 2011.

The games will also provide a sporting and cultural legacy across the UK. We are introducing the school games, a new school sport competition which will provide more opportunities for pupils to compete in sport through a vibrant programme of regular intra and inter-school competitions. Through the Inspire Programme cultural and sporting projects can link their events and projects in an official capacity to London 2012. Get Set, the London 2012 education programme, aims to enhance young people's learning through sport, culture and education and the Legacy Trust UK will help communities from across the UK build a lasting legacy from the games.

In addition, the "Places People Play" programme has been created to bring sporting legacy to life in communities across the country. This will be achieved by transforming the places where people play sport, inspiring people to make sport happen at a local level and creating sporting opportunities that give everyone the chance to become part of the mass participation legacy.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many contracts the Olympic Delivery Authority had awarded to firms located in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* each region of England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Northern Ireland and *(e)* elsewhere up to and including 30 April 2011. [57144]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is responsible for developing and building the venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 games. As of May 2011, 1,500 businesses, including those directly involved in the construction programme, have supplied the ODA from across all of the devolved nations and English regions.

The number of the ODA's direct suppliers, by nation and English region (according to their registered address), can be found in the following table:

Regional development agency	*Number of suppliers*
East midlands	44
East of England	138
London	759
North-east	22
North-west	53
South-east	233
South-west	67
West midlands	60
Yorkshire and Humber	43
Northern Ireland	5
Scotland	25
Wales	10
Overseas	41
Total	1,500

These figures only account for the contracts awarded by the ODA to its own top tier of contractors (tier one contractors). The figures do not include contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA. The ODA estimates that tens of thousands of more contracts will be generated throughout its supply chains. More information on businesses that have won games-related contracts can be found at the business section of the London 2012 website at the following link:

www.london2012.com/business

Please note the figure published for number of suppliers in December 2010 included one supplier of a small contract that was incorrectly categorised as being from Wales by the ODA.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the monetary value has been of London 2012 Olympics construction contracts awarded to companies registered in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* each region of England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Northern Ireland and *(e)* elsewhere up to and including 1 May 2011. [57145]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is responsible for developing and building the venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 games. As of May 2011, 1,500 businesses, including those directly involved in the construction programme, have supplied the ODA from across the devolved nations and the English regions.

The spend to date by the ODA, by nation and English region (based on their registered address on the supplier invoice), can be found in the tables.

Nation	*Committed spend to date (£)*
Scotland	24,476,220
Wales	417,415

Nation	*Committed spend to date (£)*
Northern Ireland	18,043,690
England	6,107,828,831
Outside the UK	37,868,901

English region	*Committed spend to date (£)*
London	3,284,082,889
South-east	1,005,464,742
East of England	830,382,444
West midlands	450,045,065
East midlands	338,986,781
North-west	104,181,567
Yorkshire and the Humber	71,331,173
North-east	11,863,982
South-west	11,490,188
Total	6,188,635,057

These figures only account for the contracts awarded by the ODA to its own top tier of contractors (tier one contractors). The figures do not include the values of contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA. For example, the steel reinforcements for the Olympic Stadium's podium structure came from Express Reinforcement in Neath, while Bluebay Building Products, based in Cardiff provided reinforced concrete for the bridges and highways on the Olympic Park.

The ODA estimates that the total value of supply chain contracts to the regions runs into hundreds of millions of pounds, but these are not public procurements and so the full value of contracts won across the UK is not captured by the figures provided. The ODA estimates that overall up to 50,000 contracts will be generated throughout its supply chains.

Please note the figure published for committed spend to date in December 2010 included one supplier of a small contract that was incorrectly categorised as being from Wales by the ODA.

Sports

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what criteria his Department applies when assessing the quality of the governance of the sports it supports. [57891]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: We continue to challenge all sporting bodies to create, improve and maintain the best possible governance structures. We believe that dedicated professionals working within strong, independent, transparent and accountable organisations are the best way of ensuring that sporting bodies are able to reflect the identity and expectations of the whole community.

Sport England and UK Sport specifically work to support core-funded sporting bodies through a formal governance assurance programme that includes an annual self-assessment, supported by an onsite independent audit every three to four years.

Tourism

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether Ministers in his Department met overseas travel companies to discuss his Department's tourism strategy in advance of its publication. [57890]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The outbound market is an important part of our tourism economy and in developing the Government's new strategy for tourism, published in March, the Minister for Tourism (John Penrose), met with representatives of the outbound travel trade including the Association of British Travel Agents and the Association of Independent Tour Operators. In creating a new four year international marketing fund for tourism, with support from major companies, the Minister and I also held discussions with a range of airline carriers and ferry operators.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the contribution of *(a)* domestic and *(b)* international golf tourism to the visitor economy. [58048]

John Penrose: In response to surveys undertaken by VisitBritain, in 2007, 1.7% of holiday visitors, 0.6% of business visitors and 2.2% visiting friends and relations said that they had played golf during their visit to the UK. VisitEngland has not undertaken any specific research about the value of golf to the visitor economy in England.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he last met the Mayor of London to discuss the potential effects on tourism of the *(a)* Queen's diamond jubilee and *(b)* London 2012 Olympics. [58174]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I meet the Mayor of London regularly to discuss issues relating to the London 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games, and opportunities such as like the Queen's diamond jubilee for promoting the capital. The establishment of London & Partners as the promotional vehicle for the capital is to be welcomed and I understand that they will be working with VisitBritain and VisitEngland on developing and growing the visitor economy.

VAT: Sports

Mr Ward: To ask Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will discuss with the Chancellor of the Exchequer the potential effect on the take-up of and participation in league sport of the decision to apply the standard rate of VAT to all sports league payments. [57388]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 24 May 2011]:* I have been asked to reply.

HMRC's view is that the provision of sports league services is liable to VAT at the standard rate. As a number of providers have been treating these supplies as exempt from VAT, HMRC issued further guidance in February 2011, confirming its view that the provision of sports league services is liable to VAT. There has been no change in policy.

JUSTICE

Civil Litigation: Legal Costs

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to his Department's document, "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales", what reports he received during the consultation period of the number and proportion of meritorious cases in Scotland that are not pursued as a consequence of funding arrangements. [57600]

Mr Djanogly: "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: The Government Response" was published on 29 March 2011. It includes a summary of responses received during the consultation period. The views of respondents who referred to the civil litigation funding regime in Scotland were clearly split. For example, one respondent pointed to Compensation Recovery Unit statistics suggesting a reduced recovery rate in Scotland than in England and Wales. Other respondents pointed to the Scottish system as an example of how conditional fee agreements can work in providing access to justice without recoverable success fees.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to his proposals for qualified one-way costs shifting, what the minimum contribution is that a losing claimant will be expected to pay towards a defendant's costs. [57551]

Mr Djanogly: As was indicated in the "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: The Government Response", published on 29 March 2011, that the Government would discuss with stakeholders how the rules on qualified one-way costs shifting should be drafted. This would include whether any minimum payment to a successful defendant's costs should be payable by a losing claimant.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to his Department's document, "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales", what the evidential basis is for his assessment that claimant solicitors will adapt to maximise profits under his proposals. [57598]

Mr Djanogly: "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: The Government Response" was published on 29 March. The impact assessment published with the Government response sets out a number of assumptions, including that the legal sector will adapt to the changes.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to his Department's document, "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales", how he expects claimants' costs in appeal cases on significant points of law to be funded. [57599]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Hammersmith (Mr Slaughter) on 26 April 2011, *Official Report,* column 135W. Claimants will be able to fund appeals in the same way that they fund cases at first instance.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to his Department's document, "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales", what reports he received during the consultation period on the number and proportion of clinical negligence claims presented as meritorious but screened out by after-the-event insurers as unmeritorious. [57601]

Mr Djanogly: "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: The Government Response" was published on 29 March 2011. It includes a summary of responses received during the consultation period, including—at paragraph 166—that:

> "[After the event] ATE insurers and some lawyers, in particular, argued that ATE insurance providers currently risk assess claims so that only stronger claims are brought".

Convictions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons convicted of offences of rape in each of the last five years already had convictions for *(a)* another offence of rape, *(b)* another sexual offence, *(c)* another violent offence and *(d)* any other offence. [57533]

Mr Blunt: Table 1 gives the numbers and proportions of offenders sentenced between 2006 and 2010 for an offence of rape in England and Wales, who at the time of their sentence had at least one previous conviction for rape, for a sexual offence including rape, for an offence of violence against the person, or for any other offence.

These figures have been derived from the data used for table A7.10 of "Criminal Statistics Quarterly Bulletin" which was published by the Ministry of Justice on 26 May 2011.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Table 1: Number and proportion of offenders convicted of rape in England and Wales between 2006 and 2010, who had at least one previous conviction for a violent offence, a sexual offence, rape or any other offence[1]

		Offenders who have been convicted previously for:[2]									
		Rape		Sexual offences[3]		Violence against the person		Any other offences		No previous conviction	
	All offenders[2] (100%)	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2006	932	36	3.9	134	14.4	261	28.0	233	25.0	371	39.8

Table 1: Number and proportion of offenders convicted of rape in England and Wales between 2006 and 2010, who had at least one previous conviction for a violent offence, a sexual offence, rape or any other offence[1]

		Offenders who have been convicted previously for:[2]									
		Rape		*Sexual offences*[3]		*Violence against the person*		*Any other offences*		*No previous conviction*	
	All offenders[2] *(100%)*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
2007	936	33	3.5	109	11.6	226	24.1	287	30.7	368	39.3
2008	962	28	2.9	109	11.3	216	22.5	279	29.0	404	42.0
2009	1,048	31	3.0	110	10.5	239	22.8	309	29.5	439	41.9
2010	1,082	26	2.4	112	10.4	253	23.4	303	28.0	464	42.9

[1] The figures are based on information drawn from the police national computer and may differ slightly from information recorded in the Crown Court.

[2] The figures are based on counts of sentencing occasions where the primary offence was rape and where the offender had at least one previous conviction for one of the offence types specified. An offender may be counted more than once if he or she has been sentenced on more than occasion during the period or has both previous violent and previous sexual offences. Therefore the numbers in the table do not sum to the total number sentenced.

[3] Including previous offences of rape.

Convictions: Hunting

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of convictions under the Hunting Act 2005 have related to hunts recognised and regulated by the Council of Hunting Associations. [57580]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts in England and Wales in 2010 (latest available) for offences under the Hunting Act 2004 can be viewed in the table.

The Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database contains information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. Other than where specified in a statute statistical information available centrally does not include the circumstances of each case. It is not possible to separately identify those specific cases proceeded against under the Hunting Act 2004 related to hunts recognised and regulated by the Council of Hunting Associations.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts, for offences under the Hunting Act 2004, England and Wales, 2010[1, 2]

	Number/percentage
Proceeded against (number)	49
Found guilty (number)	36
Conviction ratio (percentage)	73

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of his Department's employees categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* number of employees taking voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [57606]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: At this stage there are no plans to publish a more detailed breakdown of departmental work force statistics or to increase the current list of pre-announced publications.

Under Cabinet Office guidelines the Office for National Statistics collects employment figures from all Departments quarterly and while decision making internally makes use of such figures, to ensure the best use of departmental resources, the required data cleansing exercises would not currently allow statistics to be presented that matched publication guidelines. If in the future there is an opportunity to increase the frequency and detail of these published data we would revisit this publication issue.

In addition, the Ministry supports the coalition Government's transparency agenda and discloses details of senior staff salaries and work force statistics. The first round of this disclosure was published in October 2010 and reflected the position within the Ministry at 30 June 2010. The second round of disclosure is due to be published shortly and will show the position within the Ministry at 31 March 2011.

Drugs: Prosecutions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds of 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 139-42W, on drugs: prosecutions, how many and what proportion of those prosecuted for offences of *(a)* possession of and *(b)* dealing in (i) heroin, (ii) cocaine and (iii) amphetamines were (A) found not guilty, (B) fined and (C) imprisoned in each year since 2006. [57620]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, for offences relating to the possession and supply of cocaine, heroin and amphetamines, including the sentence received at all courts in England and Wales, 2006 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Defendants proceeded against, at magistrates court, in one year may not be the same individuals convicted or acquitted at the Crown Court in that year. It is therefore not possible to directly compare proceedings in one year to the final outcome in that year.

Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, acquitted and sentence breakdown for selected drug offences, England and Wales, 2006-10[1,2,3,4,5]

Offence and outcome	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Possession Heroin					
Proceeded against	4,184	4,857	5,010	5,028	4,852
Acquitted	57	60	31	45	39
As a percentage of those proceeded against (%)	1	1	1	1	1
Total sentenced	3,939	4,628	4,870	4,885	4,732
Of which:					
Fine	1,159	1,335	1,478	1,699	1,705
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	29	29	30	35	36
Immediate custody	370	416	451	323	407
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	9	9	9	7	9
Other sentences	2,410	2,877	2,941	2,863	2,620
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	61	62	60	59	55
Possession Cocaine					
Proceeded against	4,190	5,156	6,051	5,808	5,165
Acquitted	98	92	69	84	102
As a percentage of those proceeded against (%)	2	2	1	1	2
Total sentenced	3,981	4,882	5,825	5,578	4,928
Of which:					
Fine	2,055	2,307	2,839	2,941	2,710
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	52	47	49	53	55
Immediate custody	187	213	249	240	188
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	5	4	4	4	4
Other sentences	1,739	2,362	2,737	2,397	2,030
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	44	48	47	43	41
Possession Amphetamines					
Proceeded against	2,308	2,431	2,625	2,397	2,433
Acquitted	26	29	12	19	27
As a percentage of those proceeded against (%)	1	1	0	1	1
Total sentenced	2,159	2,304	2,530	2,325	2,338
Of which:					
Fine	940	917	1,092	1,117	1,129
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	44	40	43	48	48
Immediate custody	85	99	92	77	118
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	4	4	4	3	5
Other sentences	1,134	1,288	1,346	1,131	1,091
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	53	56	53	49	47
Possession with intent to supply Heroin					
Proceeded against	1,391	1,571	1,514	1,512	1,567
Acquitted	175	130	132	141	121
As a percentage of those proceeded against (%)	13	8	9	9	8
Total sentenced	1,101	1,138	1,331	1,205	1,326
Of which:					
Fine	8	6	3	1	1

Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, acquitted and sentence breakdown for selected drug offences, England and Wales, 2006-10[1,2,3,4,5]

Offence and outcome	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	1	1	0	0	0
Immediate custody	847	877	1,020	953	1,025
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	77	77	77	79	77
Other sentences	246	255	308	251	300
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	22	22	23	21	23
Possession with intent to supply Cocaine					
Proceeded against	1,332	1,528	1,725	1,671	1,706
Acquitted	157	154	159	184	192
As a percentage of those proceeded against (%)	12	10	9	11	11
Total sentenced	986	1,165	1,530	1,670	1,640
Of which:					
Fine	9	19	11	7	9
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	1	2	1	0	1
Immediate custody	774	837	1,144	1,303	1,250
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	78	72	75	78	76
Other sentences	203	309	375	360	381
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	21	27	25	22	23
Possession with intent to supply Amphetamine					
Proceeded against	294	330	341	347	388
Acquitted	26	29	23	37	40
As a percentage of those proceeded against (%)	9	9	7	11	10
Total sentenced	262	283	320	291	322
Of which:					
Fine	1	6	2	6	7
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	0	2	1	2	2
Immediate custody	109	125	156	129	140
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	42	44	49	44	43
Other sentences	152	152	162	156	175
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	58	54	51	54	54
Supplying or offering to supply Heroin					
Proceeded against	1,494	1,472	1,374	1,506	1,711
Acquitted	74	66	79	73	62
As a percentage of those proceeded against (%)	5	4	6	5	4
Total sentenced	1,166	1,159	1,207	1,202	1,190
Of which:					
Fine	—	4	3	—	2
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	—	0	0	—	0
Immediate custody	810	829	841	851	822
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	69	72	70	71	69
Other sentences	356	326	363	351	366
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	31	28	30	29	31
Supplying or offering to supply Cocaine					
Proceeded against	782	920	1,164	996	996
Acquitted	40	72	68	66	58
As a percentage of those proceeded against (%)	5	8	6	7	6
Total sentenced	502	526	714	748	656
Of which:					
Fine	12	6	9	4	5

Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, acquitted and sentence breakdown for selected drug offences, England and Wales, 2006-10[1,2,3,4,5]

Offence and outcome	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	2	1	1	1	1
Immediate custody	358	353	514	530	463
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	71	67	72	71	71
Other sentences	132	167	191	214	188
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	26	32	27	29	29
Supply or offering to supply Amphetamine					
Proceeded against	87	113	114	123	111
Acquitted	12	7	8	6	11
As a percentage of those proceeded against (%)	14	6	7	5	10
Total sentenced	89	75	79	102	85
Of which:					
Fine	2	4	4	3	5
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	2	5	5	3	6
Immediate custody	54	23	38	59	42
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	61	31	48	58	49
Other sentences	33	48	37	40	38
As a percentage of total sentenced (%)	37	64	47	39	45

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[4] Acquitted includes: Discharged and Dismissed at magistrates courts and Acquitted at the Crown Court.

[5] Other sentences include: Absolute and conditional discharge, community sentence, suspended sentence and otherwise dealt with.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Employment Tribunals Service

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what number and proportion of employment tribunal claims were multiple claims against private sector employers in each of the last five years; [58106]

(2) how many and what proportion of employment tribunal claims were multiple claims against public sector employers in each of the last five years. [58181]

Mr Djanogly: Claims to the employment tribunals may be classified into two broad categories: singles and multiples. Multiple cases are where two or more people bring cases, involving one or more jurisdiction(s) usually against a single employer but not necessarily so (for instance in transfer of undertaking cases) and always arising out of the same or very similar circumstances. As a multiple, the cases are processed, and judicially managed, together.

Statistics published annually and quarterly by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service provide a breakdown of claims received. In recent years this breakdown has included that between single and multiple claims. The following table sets out the claims received by employment tribunals in each of the last five financial years for which data are available, including the proportion of multiples and single claims lodged. However, employment tribunals do not categorise claims as "private sector" or "public sector". Therefore, no statistics are collated centrally on this divide, whether in respect of multiple claims or more widely, and it is not possible to report on this aspect. While a manual search of individual case records might give some indication, such work could only be undertaken at disproportionate cost.

Employment tribunal receipts

	2005-06		*2006-07*		*2007-08*		*2008-09*		*2009-10*	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Singles	51,500	44.8	54,100	40.8	54,500	28.8	62,400	41.3	71,300	30.2
Multiples	63,500	55.2	78,600	59.2	134,800	71.2	88,700	58.7	164,800	69.8
Total	115,000	—	132,700	—	189,300	—	151,000	—	236,100	—

Source:
Tribunals Service Statistics

European Court of Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of cases in the European Court of Human Rights to which the UK was a party in the last 12 months. [57629]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The costs are not recorded centrally and can vary considerably depending on the circumstances of each case. As well as immediate expenses such as staff time, legal fees, travel etc., costs could include those associated with wider changes to policy or legislation.

An accurate total costing for the ECtHR cases to which the UK was a party in the last 12 months could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in which final judgments the European Court of Human Rights has found the UK to be in breach of an obligation under the European Convention on Human Rights since 2006; which Convention right or rights the UK was found to have breached in each relevant judgment; which provision of legislation in the UK was deemed to have breached a Convention right or rights in each relevant judgment; and what the Government's response was to each such judgement. [58001]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: According to data published by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), there have been 83 final judgments since 2006 in which the Court found that the UK breached one or more Convention rights. The following table sets out the name of the cases and the articles of the Convention found to have been violated, as well as any damages or costs award stipulated in the judgment.

An adverse judgment does not necessarily mean that the Court has found any legislation to be in breach of the Convention. For example, the common law or an administrative practice may be found to be in violation.

Information on which provisions of UK legislation have been deemed to have violated one or more Convention right in each relevant judgment and the Government's response to each such judgment is not held centrally and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Case[1]	*Articles violated*	*Individual measures*[2]
1. Yassar Hussain	A6-2	Costs and expenses
2. Grant	A8	Pecuniary damage and costs and expenses
3. Elahi	A8	Covert listening devices Costs and expenses
4. Saadi	A5-2	Costs and expenses
5. Keegan	A8, A13	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
6. Wainwright	A8, A13	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
7. Blake	A6-1	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
8. Martin	A6-1	Costs and expenses
9. Tsfayo	A6-1	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
10. Hobbs, Richard, Walsh and Geen	A14, A1PF	Costs and expenses (for some applications)
11. Bell	A6-1 and 6-3 c	Costs and expenses
12. Young	A6-1 and 6-3 c	Costs and expenses
13. Black	A6-1 and 6-3 c	Costs and expenses
14. Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Fireman (ASLEF)	A11	Costs and expenses
15. Copland	A8	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
16. Runkee and White	A14+P1-1	Pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
17. Bhandari	A6-1	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
18. Cross	A14+P1-1	Costs and expenses
19. Gault	A5-3	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
20. Anderson	A14+P1-1	Violation
21. Woods	A14+P1-1	Pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
22. Fallon	A14+P1-1	Pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
23. Crilly	A14+P1-1	Costs and expenses
24. Reavey	A2	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
25. Brecknell	A2	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
26. O'Dowd	A2	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
27. McCartney	A2	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
28. McGrath	A2	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
29. Dickson	A8	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
30. Williams	A14+P1-1	Violation
31. Boyle	A5-3	Violation
32. Goodwin	A14+P1-1	Violation
33. Higham	A14+P1-1	Violation
34. Saadi	A5-2	Costs and expenses
35. McNamee	A14+P1-1	Violation
36. Bond	A14+P1-1	Violation
37. Cummins	A14+P1-1	Violation
38. Nelson	A14+P1-1	Violation
39. Szulc	A14+P1-1	Violation
40. McCann	A8	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
41. Twizell	A14+P1-1	Pecuniary damage
42. Smith	A14+P1-1	Violation
43. Liberty and others	A8	Costs and expenses
44. Wakeling	A14+P1-1	Costs and expenses
45. Hubley	A14+P1-1	Costs and expenses
46. Wells	A14+P1-1	Costs and expenses
47. NA	A3	Costs and expenses
48. O'Brien	A14+P1-1	Costs and expenses
49. Harrison	A14+P1-1	Costs and expenses
50. Thomas	A14+P1-1	Pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
51. Ginnifer	A14+P1-1	Costs and expenses
52. Jackson	A14+P1-1	Costs and expenses
53. RK and AK	A13	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
54. S and Marper	A8	Costs and expenses
55. Shireby	A14+P1-1	Violation
56. Bullen and Soneji	A6-1	Violation
57. Thorne	A14+P1-1	Pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
58. Al-Khawaja and Tahery	A6-1, A6-3(d)	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
59. Booth	A14+P1-1	Violation
60. Mitchard	A14+P1-1	Violation
61. Murray	A14+P1-1	Violation
62. Turner	A14+P1-1	Violation
63. Twomey	A14+P1-1	Violation
64. A. and Others	A5-1, 5-4, 5-5	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
65. Blackgrove	A14+P1-1	Pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
66. Szuluk	A8	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
67. Crompton	A6	Violation
68. Omojudi	A8	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
69. Financial Times Ltd and Others	A10	Costs and expenses
70. Gillan and Quinton	A8	Costs and expenses

Case[1]	*Articles violated*	*Individual measures*[2]
71. Khan AW	A8	Costs and expenses
72. Richard Anderson	A6-1	Non-pecuniary damages, costs and expenses
73. Al Saadoon and Mufdhi	A3, A13, A34	Violation, costs and expenses
74. AD and OD	A8, A13+8	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
75. MAK And RK	A8, A13	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
76. Allen	A5-4	Non-pecuniary damage
77. SH	A3 (in case of expulsion)	Violation (in case of expulsion)
78. Clift	A5+14	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
19. Kay and Others	A8	Pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
80. JM	A14+P1-1	Non-pecuniary damage, costs and expenses
81. Greens and MT	P1-3	Costs and expenses
82. Mackay and BBC Scotland	A13+10	Violation
83. O'Donaghue	A12, A14+12, A14+9	Non-pecuniary, pecuniary damage, costs and expenses

[1] In "Deak", proceedings were taken against Romania and the UK jointly. The judgment found Romania to have violated Article 6 but the UK was not found to have breached any Convention right.
In "MGN", the judgment is final although there has not been final agreement on the level of just satisfaction.

[2] Where the judgment said that the finding of a violation constituted adequate just satisfaction and/or no damages or costs were awarded, the entry here will read as 'violation'.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of complying with judgments of the European Court of Human Rights against the UK in each of the last five years. [57549]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Such an estimate could not be provided without disproportionate cost. Information on costs is not collected centrally. Implementation of judgments from the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) is the responsibility of the Government Department responsible for the policy area concerned and costs can vary considerably depending on the circumstances of the case.

Isis Prison and Young Offender Institution

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to make any changes to *(a)* the physical fabric and *(b)* staffing levels at HM Prison and Young Offenders Institution Isis as a result of the decision to increase the number of over-21-year-old offenders there. [57433]

Mr Blunt: HMP/YOI Isis was constructed to category B standard, which allows NOMS the opportunity to determine the population strategy of offenders without the need for significant investment in the fabric when such changes occur. There are no planned changes to the physical fabric of the site as it is capable of holding either young adult or category C offenders up to the age of 25, irrespective of the numbers in each category.

There are no plans to reduce staffing levels as a result of the change to the offender profile.

Legal Aid: Lone Parents

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many single parents were in receipt of legal aid for each category of justiciable matter in the latest year for which information is available; and what proportion of all recipients this represented in each case. [57416]

Mr Djanogly: Neither my Department nor the Legal Services Commission holds data on whether applicants for legal aid are single parents.

Legal Aid: Young People

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse of providing legal aid to persons under the age of 18 years was in the latest period for which figures are available. [57962]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales.

The following table outlines the total cost to the public purse of providing legal aid to persons under the age of 18 years for the financial year 2009-10.

The LSC does not record this information in relation to the Crime Higher scheme which accounts for cases heard at the Crown court and higher criminal courts.

	Total (£)
Crime Lower	40,973,016
Legal Help	13,131,688
Civil Representation	133,459,162
Total	187,563,865

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has undertaken an impact assessment to ascertain the potential effect on children and young people of the proposed changes to legal aid. [57963]

Mr Djanogly: The impact assessments published alongside the consultation paper detailed the potential impacts of the proposals. The equalities impact assessments set out the potential impacts on people based on their sex, race and whether they are ill or disabled. However, these did not consider impacts specifically on children and young people.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 8 March 2011 with regard to Mr H. R. Chowdhury. [57384]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Unfortunately I have no record of having received this letter when originally sent. However, I have now been provided with a copy and will ensure the right hon. Member receives a reply as soon as possible.

Military Corrective Training Centre: Young People

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has had recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Defence on the detention of people under the age of 18 years at the Military Correction Training Centre; and if he will make a statement. [57726]

Mr Blunt: There have been no recent discussions between the Secretary of State for Justice and the Secretary of State for Defence on the detention of people under the age of 18 years at the Military Corrective Training Centre.

Portland Young Offender Institution

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to make any changes to *(a)* the physical fabric of and *(b)* staffing levels at HM Young Offenders Institution Portland as a result of the decision to begin to hold over-21-year-old offenders there. [57434]

Mr Blunt: There are no plans to make changes to the physical fabric of Portland or increase staffing levels as a result of the change to the offender profile.

Prison Accommodation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1073W, on prisons: private sector, (1) under what circumstances a prison is permitted to operate with a population in excess of its operational capacity; and if he will make a statement; [57406]

(2) for what reasons HMP Lowdham Grange was operating with a population in excess of its operational capacity; and if he will make a statement. [57407]

Mr Blunt: Governors, controllers and directors of contracted out prisons must ensure that approved operational capacity at each prison is not normally exceeded other than on an exceptional basis to accommodate pressing operational need.

Published data on the prison population are drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Centrally held records indicate that on 25 March 2011, HMP Lowdham Grange had a population of 935 against an operational capacity of 930. This included 20 prisoners who were identified as an "authorised absence". An authorised absence from prison can be for a number of reasons, such as release to outside hospital or for release on temporary licence to assist with prisoner resettlement. Release on temporary licence requires a prisoner to be absent from prison for at least one night. These prisoners are required to return to prison after their temporary release has concluded and therefore continue to form part of the overall population for which a prison place is required.

On further investigation Lowdham Grange has identified that 15 of the 20 prisoners recorded as an authorised absence had not had their records updated and should have been recorded as fully discharged (for example following final discharge or transfer to a mental health facility) with no expectation of return to the prison.

Taking this in to account, on 25 March 2011 Lowdham Grange was operating within its operational capacity.

Prisoner Escorts

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison custody officers are certified to work in each of the prison and court escort contracts operated by the National Offender Management System. [57408]

Mr Blunt: The number of prisoner custody officers (PCO) employed by the prisoner escort contractors varies month to month due to staff changes. The following table provides details on the number of PCOs employed by each of the PECS contractors, within the last year.

	2010								*2011*			
	May	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*
G4S North	870	876	874	865	853	847	842	838	838	833	830	829
G4S East	929	923	911	903	894	886	883	873	873	868	863	860
Serco	1,249	1,239	1,230	1,223	1,225	1,218	1,213	1,204	1,197	1,209	1,202	1,197
Reliance	1,035	1,030	1,021	1,015	1,002	998	1,025	1,018	1,015	1,010	1,007	996
G4S IPT[1]	179	179	176	174	171	167	167	166	166	162	162	158

[1] IPT = Inter prison transfers—a national contract held by G4S for the transfer of prisoners between prisons.

Prisons: Security

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 48-52W, on prisons: security, what the nature of each security breach in each prison was in each of the last five years. [57461]

Mr Blunt: Security breaches are defined as any incident involving visitors or outsiders where the security or control of the establishment has been breached, or there has been an attempt to do so. To provide details of the nature of each security breach would involve locating, examining and summarising each of the 249 incident reports which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Typically, though, incidents may involve unauthorised access to the prison by members of the public, such as authorised visitors attempting to gain access to non-authorised areas of the prison or intruders found in, or attempting to enter, the prison grounds. Some incidents may be connected with attempts to bring unauthorised articles into the prison, or damage to the physical security of the prison perimeter or other acts of vandalism.

Prisons: Television

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much each prison establishment received from prisoners in respect of payments for in-cell televisions in each of the last five years. [57535]

Mr Blunt: In-cell television is available across the prison estate as a key earnable privilege under local Incentive and Earned Privileges schemes. Eligible prisoners are able to rent televisions from the Prison Service for a weekly rental charge of £1 per set, per week or part week. The revenue raised is spent centrally to purchase new or replacement televisions and to fund the switchover of the prison estate from analogue to digital TV following the decision to end analogue broadcasts in 2012.

The following table provides payments from prisoners for in-cell televisions for each prison establishments in each of the last five years:

Receipts from prisoners from the in-cell TV programme, 2006-11

£000

Establishment name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Isle of Wight Cluster	43	50	52	51	50
Grendon and Springhill	14	13	14	14	17
Isle of Sheppey Clustered Services	52	57	61	64	83
Hewell Cluster	29	21	25	27	24
Acklington	31	33	36	37	33
Ashwell	23	22	22	7	5
Askham Grange	2	2	2	2	2
Aylesbury	19	16	14	15	14
Bedford	10	12	11	11	10
Belmarsh	22	21	20	19	18
Birmingham	30	31	28	21	30
Blantyre House	5	5	5	5	5
Blundeston	14	14	14	17	16
Brinsford	13	13	17	16	15
Bristol	12	11	11	10	12
Brixton	19	16	19	19	16
Buckley Hall	14	15	14	15	15
Bullingdon	20	20	21	23	23
Bullwood Hall	6	8	7	7	5
Bure	—	—	—	3	23
Canterbury	6	6	7	7	7
Cardiff	18	18	19	20	16
Castington	15	15	14	15	8
Channings Wood	24	25	22	21	19
Chelmsford	—	28	29	26	14
Coldingley	13	11	16	19	20
Cookham Wood	5	2	2	3	4
Dartmoor	25	26	26	27	18
Deerbolt	16	17	19	21	21
Dorchester	5	4	4	4	4
Downview	12	9	11	12	11
Drake Hall	9	10	9	10	9
Durham	16	16	14	15	16
Eastwood Park	10	10	10	9	11
Edmunds Hill	10	11	11	12	17
Erlestoke	17	17	18	18	16
Everthorpe	25	26	25	26	25
Exeter	10	8	9	10	11
Featherstone	22	25	25	21	6
Feltham	20	20	20	25	13
Ford	12	11	8	15	15
Foston Hall	8	9	9	8	8
Frankland	24	29	25	25	26
Full Sutton	23	23	23	23	23
Garth	22	24	30	30	31
Gartree	22	23	24	25	29
Glen Parva	15	15	15	15	16
Gloucester	7	7	8	8	7
Guys Marsh	20	20	20	21	17
Haverigg	22	22	24	25	24
Highdown	14	15	20	20	24
Highpoint	26	19	17	20	22
Hindley	16	19	18	12	12
Hollesley Bay	10	10	13	14	14
Holloway	7	5	5	7	12
Holme House	22	23	24	25	28
Hull	26	24	27	26	24
Huntercombe	14	14	13	10	6
Isis	—	—	—	—	4
Kennet	—	4	7	7	7
Kingston	7	6	6	6	8
Kirkham	20	23	25	25	25
Kirklevington Grange	9	9	11	9	11
Lancaster Castle	3	3	4	4	4
Lancaster Farms	21	20	16	17	18
Latchmere House	4	2	—	—	4
Leeds	24	21	21	24	25
Leicester	6	7	7	6	5
Lewes	11	10	16	14	7
Leyhill	17	14	20	16	23
Lincoln	10	14	13	14	12
Lindholme	31	29	44	33	37
Littlehey	20	21	19	16	17
Liverpool	32	32	39	30	32
Long Lartin	16	16	17	24	25
Low Newton	11	12	13	11	9
Maidstone	24	21	18	21	18
Manchester	23	22	22	21	24
Moorland	33	32	31	33	30
Morton Hall	14	15	13	15	11
Mount (The)	27	31	32	32	30
New Hall	11	14	13	14	13
North Sea Camp	6	6	6	6	5
Northallerton	5	5	5	5	4
Norwich	19	16	16	19	23
Nottingham	9	11	11	12	23
Onley	23	24	25	27	26
Pentonville	10	14	19	20	22
Portland	14	17	20	19	17
Preston	13	14	15	17	19
Ranby	45	39	40	40	37
Reading	6	5	5	4	4
Risley	38	39	42	39	41
Rochester	15	14	16	22	22
Send	8	9	11	12	11
Shepton Mallet	6	7	7	11	11
Shrewsbury	9	8	7	7	6
Stafford	19	19	20	20	18
Stocken	24	26	30	30	32
Stoke Heath	20	19	18	15	11
Styal	6	9	9	9	6
Sudbury	14	13	14	15	14

Receipts from prisoners from the in-cell TV programme, 2006-11

£000

Establishment name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Swansea	8	8	8	8	8
Swinfen Hall	25	26	25	25	23
Thorn Cross	8	7	8	10	7
Usk	12	11	12	12	11
Verne (The)	18	19	19	20	18
Wakefield	30	28	30	30	29
Wandsworth	19	26	27	32	29
Warren Hill	13	12	7	6	5
Wayland	25	26	29	29	30
Wealstun	27	24	20	19	25
Wellingborough	23	25	25	24	21
Werrington	7	7	6	6	3
Wetherby	14	13	13	14	14
Whatton	15	18	24	25	26
Whitemoor	16	16	16	16	15
Winchester	7	15	23	18	19
Woodhill	11	13	13	17	17
Wormwood Scrubs	6	17	21	24	32
Wymott	36	37	38	38	45

Notes:

1. Figures for 2010-11 are provisional as the accounts have not been audited and may be subject to changes.
2. Private run prisons are not included.
3. These figures have been drawn to the nearest £000 from account code entries in our central accounting systems. As with any large scale recording system, it is possible that errors in data entry and processing may have been made at account code level.
4. Financial payment data for Elmley, Standford Hill and Swaleside are reported under the Isle of Sheppey Cluster. Similarly, data for Parkhurst, Camphill and Albany are reported under the Isle of Wight cluster.
5. Hewell cluster (June 2008) includes Brockhill, Hewell Grange and Blakenhurst.
6. HMP Bure and HMP and YOI Isis are new prisons.
7. Latchmere House—prior to 2010-11, when in-cell electricity was introduced, Latchmere had a battery operated system. For the years 2008-09 and 2009-10, no income was collected as the system did not support the full use of TVs.
8. Receipts for TV in-cells may vary during the periods shown for various reasons including: not all cells having electricity points; additional accommodation cells brought into use; charging mechanisms for double occupancy cells.

Prosecutions: Landlords

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prosecutions there were of landlords for an offence under the Housing Act 2004 in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the latest period for which figures are available; [57502]

(2) how many prosecutions there were of landlords for an offence under the Protection from Eviction Act 1977 in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the latest period for which figures are available. [57503]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts in England and Wales for offences under the Housing Act 2004 and the Protection from Eviction Act 1977, from 2008 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

The Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database contains information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. Other than where specified in a statute, statistical information available centrally does not include the circumstances of each case. It is not possible to separately identify those specific cases where the defendant was the landlord.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Housing Act 2004 and the Protection from Eviction Act 1977, England and Wales, 2008-10[1, 2]

	Number proceeded against		
Statute	*2008*[3]	*2009*	*2010*
Housing Act 2004	193	234	355
Protection from Eviction Act 1977	34	49	37

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Rape

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons convicted of offences of rape were released from custodial sentences before the end of the sentence handed down in each of the last 10 years. [57532]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of prisoners serving determinate sentences for rape who were released from prison in each of the last 10 years. They were all released from custody before the end of their sentence as all offenders serving a determinate sentence serve part of their sentence in custody and part on licence in the community.

If the sentence was imposed under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (for offences committed on or after 4 April 2005) the first half of the sentence is served in custody and the second half is served on release on licence in the community.

If the sentence was imposed under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 and is four years or longer, release is determined on the basis of risk by the Parole Board between the halfway and two-thirds point of the sentence. The offender is on licence from the point at which he is released until the three-quarter point of sentence and then at risk for the final quarter. If a 1991 Act sentence is less than four years, the offender will be released at the half way point, on licence to three quarter point and then at risk for the final quarter.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Determinate discharges for offences of rape in England and Wales, 2001-10

	Number
2001	490
2002	532
2003	517
2004	553
2005	572
2006	515
2007	609

Determinate discharges for offences of rape in England and Wales, 2001-10

2008	656
2009	623
2010	763

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Rape: Convictions

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of rape cases ended in a conviction in the latest period for which figures are available. [57299]

Mr Blunt: The proportion of findings of guilt based on the number of proceedings for offences of rape in 2009 (latest available) was 36%. This is based on 997 findings of guilt from 2,796 defendants proceeded against for rape of a male or rape of a female.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many (1) convictions there were for offences of rape in each of the last 10 years; and in how many such cases the defendant was *(a)* found guilty by a jury, *(b)* pleaded guilty during the trial and *(c)* pleaded guilty upon being charged; [57582]

(2) persons convicted of offences of rape in each of the last 10 years were sentenced to *(a)* non-custodial sentences and *(b)* custodial sentences of (i) less than one year, (ii) between one and two years, (iii) between two and three years, (iv) between three and four years, (v) between four and five years, (vi) between five and six years, (vii) between six and seven years, (viii) between seven and eight years, (ix) between eight and nine years, (x) between nine and 10 years, (xi) between 10 and 11 years, (xii) between 11 and 12 years, (xiii) between 12 and 15 years, (xiv) between 15 and 20 years and (xv) over 20 years. [57534]

Mr Blunt: Table 1 shows the number of defendants found guilty at the Crown court of rape, by type of plea, England and Wales, 2000 to 2010 (latest available). It is not possible to identify at which stage of criminal proceedings the defendant pleaded guilty.

Table 2 shows the number of defendants found guilty at all courts, sentenced to immediate custody, sentence length break down and the average custodial sentence length for offences of rape, England and Wales, 2000 to 2010 (latest available).

Table 1: Number of defendants found guilty at the crown court and by plea for rape offences, England and Wales, 2000-10[1, 2, 3, 4]

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total found guilty	593	569	651	671	748	787	854	860	913	984	1,037
Total sentenced	596	571	655	673	751	795	863	872	919	999	1,058
Defendants pleading guilty	215	214	258	259	310	361	395	387	406	445	466
Defendants pleading not guilty and found guilty)	378	356	393	412	438	426	459	475	507	541	571
Plea not recorded and found guilty	3	1	4	2	3	8	9	10	6	13	21

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[4] The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Defendants found guilty at all courts, sentence length break down and the average custodial sentence length for offences of rape, England and Wales, 2000-10

	Total found guilty	*Total sentenced*[4]	*Other non-custodial sentences*	*Total Immediate custody*	*Up to 1 year*	*1 year up to 2 years*	*2 years up to 3 years*	*3 years up to 4 years*	*4 years up to 5 years*	*5 years up to 6 years*
2000	598	596	23	573	4	1	15	33	53	67
2001	572	571	19	552	9	9	10	34	48	65
2002	655	655	23	632	8	10	10	30	60	76
2003	673	673	19	654	3	3	19	29	56	83
2004	751	751	32	719	11	6	19	49	63	82
2005	796	795	48	747	8	17	20	49	55	102
2006	863	863	59	804	6	13	20	45	56	96
2007	873	872	51	821	2	14	23	39	50	85
2008[3]	922	919	54	865	3	8	27	36	76	82
2009	997	999	58	941	4	6	23	38	70	107
2010	1058	1058	74	984	1	4	24	60	73	86

	6 years up to 7 years	7 years up to 8 years	8 years up to 9 years	9 years up to 10 years	10 years up to 11 years	11 years up to 12 years	12 years up to 15 years	15 years up to 20 years	Over 20 years	Indeterminate public protection sentence	Average custodial sentence length (months)[5]
2000	78	73	65	35	57	8	28	6	50	—	83.2
2001	78	68	48	39	39	6	31	8	60	—	81.1
2002	94	76	57	42	66	9	42	4	48	—	83.7
2003	85	70	94	46	54	11	36	12	53	—	86.4
2004	78	68	103	44	63	10	44	16	63	—	84.4
2005	84	66	105	42	60	14	43	8	59	15	81.7
2006	77	70	78	37	49	12	27	15	72	131	81.1
2007	88	68	81	38	41	14	36	25	46	171	85.4
2008[3]	72	70	70	47	55	20	69	31	35	164	90.3
2009	82	69	83	46	56	26	87	61	20	163	95.7
2010	89	51	99	55	62	19	102	61	18	180	97.2

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[4] The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

[5] Average custodial sentence excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

Note:

Information drawn from court systems may be different from the information recorded on the Police National Computer

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Rape: Sentencing

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of a prison sentence served for convicted rapists who entered a guilty plea was in the latest period for which figures are available. [57300]

Mr Blunt: In 2009 the average determinate custodial sentence length for offenders convicted of rape was 83 months for those who entered a guilty plea at the Crown court and 105 months for those who entered a not guilty plea at the Crown court.

If the sentence was imposed under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (for offences committed on or after 4 April 2005) the first half of the sentence is served in custody and the second half is served on release on licence in the community.

If the sentence was imposed under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 and is four years or longer, release is determined on the basis of risk by the Parole Board between the halfway and two-thirds point of the sentence. The offender is on licence from the point at which he is released until the three quarter point of sentence and then at risk for the final quarter. If a 1991 Act sentence is less than four years, the offender will be released at the half way point, on licence to three quarter point and then at risk for the final quarter.

Recall to Custody

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals in England and Wales released from custody on licence following *(a)* a determinate sentence and *(b)* a life sentence and subsequently recalled following a breach are not currently in custody. [58149]

Mr Blunt: As of 31 March 2011, there were 954 offenders released on licence subsequently recalled and not returned to custody. 930 of these offenders were originally sentenced to determinate sentences and 24 were sentenced to indeterminate sentences. Indeterminate sentences include mandatory, discretionary and automatic life sentences, as well as HMP, IPP and DPP sentences.

Statistics on licence recalls and returns to custody are published quarterly in the Offender Management Statistics quarterly bulletin on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/oms-quartlery.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many warrants for recall to custody were issued in England and Wales in 2010 in respect of persons originally given *(a)* a life sentence and *(b)* a determinate sentence. [58150]

Mr Blunt: During 2010, 15,424 offenders were released on licence and subsequently recalled to custody. 15,299 of these offenders were originally given determinate sentences and 125 were given indeterminate sentences. Indeterminate sentences include mandatory, discretionary and automatic life sentences, as well as HMP, IPP and DPP sentences.

Statistics on licence recalls and returns to custody are published quarterly in the Offender Management Statistics quarterly bulletin on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/oms-quartlery.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Reoffenders

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons convicted of an offence of rape in each of the last five years committed after release from prison *(a)* another offence of rape, *(b)* another sexual offence, *(c)* another violent offence and *(d)* any other offence (i) within one month, (ii) between one and two months, (iii) between two and three months, (iv) between three and six months, (v) between six and nine months, (vi) between nine and 12 months, (vii) between 12 and 18 months, (viii) between 18 and 24 months, (ix) between two and three years, (x) between three and four years and (xi) between four and five years of (A) release from prison, (B) the end of any prison release conditions and (C) the end of the sentence originally handed down. [57531]

Mr Blunt: The following table provides information on the number of adult offenders released from prison in the first quarter of each year after serving a sentence for rape, who went on to commit a re-offence[1] in the following 12 months by re-offence type and time to re-offence.

The latest reconviction data provided are based on offences committed within one year of an offender being released from prison. Therefore data regarding offences committed after the 12-month period cannot be provided.

The original sentence handed down and data regarding release conditions are not held in the re-convictions dataset therefore these data cannot be provided.

For more detail on how reoffending is measured please see the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Number of offenders discharged from prison following a conviction for rape in the 1st quarter of the last five years, who went on to be convicted of a re-offence[1], by re-offence type and time to re-offence

			Time to re-offence—from release from prison to re-offence date					
Re-offence type	*Cohort year*	*Distinct number of offenders[2]*	*0 to 1 month*	*More than 1 month to 2 months*	*More than 2 months to 3 months*	*More than 3 months to 6 months*	*More than 6 months to 9 months*	*More than 9 months to 12 months*
Rape	Q1 2005	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Q1 2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Q1 2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Q1 2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Q1 2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual[3]	Q1 2005	4	1	0	0	0	2	1
	Q1 2006	4	1	0	0	1	1	1
	Q1 2007	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Q1 2008	3	0	0	0	0	2	1
	Q1 2009	4	1	0	0	2	0	1
Violence	Q1 2005	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
	Q1 2006	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Q1 2007	4	0	0	0	2	1	2
	Q1 2008	3	0	0	0	0	1	3
	Q1 2009	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
Other re-offences (excluding rape, sexual and violence)	Q1 2005	8	1	2	0	3	4	1
	Q1 2006	7	0	1	1	2	0	4
	Q1 2007	7	1	1	0	3	2	3
	Q1 2008	9	0	1	0	3	2	3
	Q1 2009	7	0	1	0	3	1	3

[1] A re-offence is defined here as an offender being convicted at court for an offence committed within a 12-month follow-up period and is convicted either within the follow up period or a further six-month waiting period.

[2] Rows may not sum to the distinct number of offenders as an offender may commit more than one offence.

[3] Includes sexual (including rape) and sexual (child) offences.

Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions a sentence *(a)* at and *(b)* below the minimum tariff for an offence was handed down in (i) the Crown court and (ii) magistrates courts in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what proportion of sentences given in each type of court each figure represents. [57402]

Mr Blunt: The only minimum sentences provided for in the sentencing framework are seven years for a third Class A drug trafficking offence under section 111 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000, three years for a third time domestic burglary under section 111 of the 2000 Act, and five years for unauthorised possession of certain firearms (three years if the offender is aged under 18) and the Criminal Justice Act 2003, unless the courts find exceptional circumstances or that it would be unjust to impose the sentence in an individual case. In addition, there is the mandatory life sentence for murder under the Offences Against the Persons Act 1861.

For information please see the following tables from Sentencing Statistics 2009, supplementary tables 2b and 2c.

Table 2b: Persons sentenced under the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000, 2000-09, England and Wales

Number of persons

	Section 109	*Section 110*	*Section 111*
	Life for second serious offence	*Minimum 7 years for third class A drug trafficking offence*	*Minimum 3 years for third domestic burglary*
2000	57	2	—
2001	51	1	6
2002	44	—	2
2003	48	3	13
2004	47	4	46
2005	[1]43	3	89
2006	[1]16	7	229
2007	[1]5	11	398
2008	[1]2	25	520
2009	[1]2	33	639

[1] Section 109 was replaced on 4 April 2005 by sentences of imprisonment for public protection. Figures therefore relate to offences committed prior to that date.

Table 2c : Persons sentenced for firearms offences liable for mandatory minimum custodial sentence as prescribed by the Criminal Justice Act 2003[1], 2003-09, England and Wales

Number of persons

Age of offender		*[2]2003*	*[2]2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
16 to 17-year-olds	Total sentenced	52	49	32	15	15	20	19
	Total immediate custody	8	10	9	8	5	18	18
	Received mandatory minimum —at least 3 years[3]	—	5	4	5	1	13	13
	% of offenders sentenced receiving mandatory minimum	—	10.2	12.5	33.3	6.7	65.0	68.4
	ACSL(6)	11.0	25.0	26.0	29.8	22.4	35.8	32.2
18 years and above	Total sentenced	834	688	353	265	249	340	360
	Total immediate custody	206	241	233	204	203	288	298
	Received mandatory minimum—at least 5 years[4]	34	76	142	136	141	220	208
	% of offenders sentenced receiving mandatory minimum	[5]4.1	11.0	40.2	51.3	56.6	64.7	57.8
	ACSL[6]	28.1	35.9	48.1	52.4	54.1	57.1	55.8

[1] Offences under Firearms Act 1968 of: Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition, or Possessing or distributing firearm disguised as other object.

[2] The mandatory is only applicable for offences that occurred on or after 26 January 2004.

[3] Mandatory minimum for persons aged 16 or 17 at time of offence and for offences taking place after 26 January 2004 is three years. Not all of those in this age bracket would have been eligible for the mandatory minimum as they may have been under 16 at the time of the offence; it is the age at the point of sentence that is recorded on courts proceedings database.

[4] Mandatory minimum for persons aged over 18 at time of offence and for offences taking place after 26 January 2004 is five years. Not all of those in this age bracket would have been eligible for the mandatory minimum as they may have been under 18 at the time of the offence; it is the age at the point of sentence that is recorded on courts proceedings database.

[5] The mandatory minimum did not apply to anyone sentenced in 2003, these figures have been supplied for comparative purposes only.

[6] Average custodial sentence length excludes life/indeterminate sentences.

Social Security Benefits: Appeals

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average time taken was from submission of an appeal against a failed *(a)* employment and support allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance claim to its decision in the latest period for which figures are available. [57680]

Mr Djanogly: The following table shows the average time taken from submission of an appeal to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) until a decision is issued by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) for employment and support allowance and disability living allowance appeals.

The information covers 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011, the latest period for which figures are available.

Average waiting times for employment support allowance and disability living allowance appeals, 2010-11

	Average time in weeks from:	
	Submission to DWP to receipt at HMCTS[1]	*Receipt at HMCTS to issue of decision*
Employment support allowance	7.99	19.38
Disability living allowance	7.37	24.43

[1] The data regarding the time from when an appeal is submitted to the DWP until it is received by HMCTS is taken from HMCTS database and relies on the date of submission provided by DWP.

The Tribunals Service's target in 2010-11 was to issue a final decision for 75% of social security and child support (SSCS) appeals within 16 weeks of receipt from the DWP. Performance below target has resulted from an unexpectedly high level of appeals. In response, the Tribunals Service (and now HMCTS) has significantly increased its capacity and, nationally, 36% more SSCS appeals were cleared in 2010-11 compared to 2009-10. Further capacity increases are in hand.

Youth Custody

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of recent trends in the number of 18 to 20 year-olds in custody; [57288]

(2) what his policy is on placing young adult offenders in custody within the secure prison estate; [57290]

(3) pursuant to his answer of 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 589W, on young offenders, what the *(a)* capacity and *(b)* occupancy rate was of each young offender institution holding 18 to 20 year old offenders in each month of the last three years; [57291]

(4) what proportion of young adult offenders in custody have been held in designated youth offender institutions in each month of each year since 2005. [57327]

Mr Blunt: Table 1 shows the number of 18 to 20-year-olds in custody each month since January 2008. The trend has been of a steady decline since August 2009.

Young adults sentenced to detention in a young offender institution are detained in young offender institutions (YOIs) as required by section 98 of the Powers of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000. These are normally self contained but in some instances are situated within an adult prison with which they share the majority of their facilities. Whatever the location, young adults detained in YOIs have separate sleeping accommodation and are always managed in accordance with the YOI rules.

We are committed to retaining specific provision within the secure estate for young adult offenders. Our "Breaking the Cycle" Green Paper sets out a broad reform agenda to drive improved results for all offenders in the secure estate, including young adults.

Table 2 shows the population, operational capacity and occupancy rate of establishments whose predominant function was a Young Offender Institution (excluding those YOIs where places are commissioned exclusively by the Youth Justice Board) in England and Wales on the last day in each month in each of the past three years.

In reference to the answer I provided to question 39586 on 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 590W, it has come to light that the population and operational capacity figures were incorrect in that they did not include data for YOI Hindley for June 2008 and that the data used related to the last Friday of the June, rather than, as stated, the last day of the month. This has been amended and the correct information is set out in Table 3.

Between 2005 and the present, all young adult offenders sentenced to detention in a young offender institution have been detained in designated young offender institutions (YOIs), as required by section 98 of the Powers of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 have been placed in the Library.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost of the young offender institution estate per young offender has been in each year since 2005. [57317]

Mr Blunt: The average cost of keeping a person in a young offender institution (YOI) for the year 2005-06 to 2009-10 is detailed in the following table.

All YOIs, age 15 to 21, average

£

	Direct establishment cost per prisoner	Overall cost per prisoner
2009-10	36,928	53,198
2008-09	36,532	52,783
2007-08	34,896	49,419
2006-07	33,406	—
2005-06	35,865	—

Figures for 2010-11 are not yet available as the accounts on which these are calculated have not yet been audited.

For the year 2007-08 to 2009-10, the data includes private and public sector prisons, for prior years, 2006-07 and 2005-06, the data is for only public sector prisons.

The direct establishment cost includes expenditure met locally at each establishment, as published in the annual report and accounts of Her Majesty's Prison Service or for 2008-09 and 2009-10 in an addendum to the NOMS Agency annual report and accounts.

In addition, an overall cost also including expenditure met at regional and national level, is shown for the year 2007-08 to 2009-10.

The overall average cost comprises the direct local establishment costs of public and private prisons, increased by an apportionment of relevant costs borne centrally and in the regions by NOMS. This involves some estimation. The figures do not include the cost of prisoners held in police or court cells under Operation Safeguard, or expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. Health and Education). Prisoner escort service costs are included. Expenditure recharged to the Youth Justice Board in respect of young people is included. Any expenditure met directly by the Youth Justice Board is not included.

The costs represent the cost per prisoner at each establishment where the majority use at the end of each year was a YOI. There is no adjustment for prisons holding prisoners of more than one category. The costs cover YOI establishments for age 15 to 21 years.

Due to changes in scope and accounting treatment over this period, the figures are not necessarily directly comparable. Figures are subject to rounding.

TRANSPORT

Airlines

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme on the competitiveness of airlines. [57865]

Mrs Villiers: The impact assessments of The Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2011, The Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2010 and The Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2009 include assessments of the impact of these regulations on competition between aircraft operators.

These documents are available on the internet at the following addresses and are available in the Libraries of the House.

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/765/pdfs/uksiem_20110765_en.pdf

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1996/pdfs/uksiem_20101996_en.pdf

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/2301/pdfs/uksiem_20092301_en.pdf

Aviation: Air Pollution

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to mitigate the local environmental effects of aviation; and what assessment he has made of the environmental effects of aviation on communities in the Midlands. [55463]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 17 May 2011]:* The local environmental impact of aircraft operations is a key priority for Government. That is why we have cancelled plans for a third runway at Heathrow and will not support proposals for additional runways at Gatwick and Stansted.

Aviation must be able to grow to support the future prosperity of the UK but this has to be within the context of delivering environmental goals and protecting the quality of life of local communities. We are therefore currently consulting on principles that might underpin a sustainable framework for aviation. This consultation, which has a particular focus on the local environmental impacts, provides a key opportunity for all those affected by these impacts to contribute to the debate and offer views on the future direction of policy.

Outside Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports where statutory noise control measures apply, airports (including those situated in the Midlands) have been encouraged to engage constructively with local communities through Joint Consultative Committees in developing and implementing noise control measures, appropriate to local circumstances which can vary considerably from airport to airport. Over 51 airports are statutorily required to provide consultative facilities. The Government have issued guidance to assist airports and Joint Consultative Committees in developing effective local consultation.

Birmingham and East Midlands airports, in common with other major airports in England, have been required to produce strategic Noise Action Plans for consideration for formal adoption under the European Environmental Noise Directive. These plans are currently being reviewed and a decision on formal adoption will be made shortly.

Aviation: Russia

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress he has made on his Department's response to the European Commission ruling that the UK must amend its bilateral air service agreements with Russia; and if he will make a statement. [56023]

Mrs Villiers: The European Commission wrote to the UK Government in January, expressing the view that the UK's international air services agreements with the Russian Federation were inconsistent with its obligations under the treaties governing the European Union. The Commission invited the Government to submit its views in accordance with Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The Government responded to the Commission in March pointing out certain misunderstandings in the Commission's assertions. In particular it was pointed out that there is no restriction on which airlines may be designated by the UK to operate under the agreement, whether on grounds of nationality or otherwise. The Government also questioned other assertions in the Commission's letter and concluded that the UK has satisfied its obligations under European law.

While acknowledging the desirability of modernising the current air services arrangements with Russia, the Government did not consider that the revocation of the bilateral Air Services Agreement would be a proportionate response.

Aviation: Security

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on his proposals to reform aviation security regulation. [56113]

Mrs Villiers: Officials have developed initial proposals for an outcome focused risk based approach to aviation security regulation. As set out in the updated Department for Transport Business Plan, published on 13 May, we have launched a pre-consultation call for evidence with industry stakeholders and will begin formal consultation on the proposals in September.

Aviation: Snow and Ice

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether his Department plans to issue guidance to airport operators on the effects on the environment of extended use of de-icing products in periods of severe weather; [56019]

(2) whether he has assessed the effects on the environment of extended use of de-icing products on airport runways during severe weather since December 2010. [56020]

Mrs Villiers: Airport operators must comply with all relevant environmental regulations in respect of the use, interception and appropriate disposal of the different types of chemical de-icer products used on airport ground surfaces. Environmental regulations are put in place by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and enforced by the Environment Agency.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has assessed the feasibility of producing airline performance information during severe weather conditions as recommended in the Independent Review of Winter Resilience; and whether he has discussed such a proposal with the Civil Aviation Authority. [56118]

Mrs Villiers: The Civil Aviation Authority has undertaken market research to identify the information air passengers find most valuable. This covers a range of service quality measures, including airline punctuality. It will publish the results in the summer.

Biofuels

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport from which organisations his Department has received representations on its bioenergy strategy since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [55406]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 17 May 2011]:* Department for Transport Ministers meet regularly with key UK and European organisations where they discuss a range of transport issues including Government policy on the strategic use of biofuels. The Secretary of State and I have met with ExxonMobil, Shell, Greenergy, The Renewable Energy Association, British Sugar, Neste Oil, The Carbon Trust, The National Non Food Crops Centre, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Greenpeace, World Wide Fund for Nature, the Canadian high commission, ministerial colleagues in other Departments, other European countries, and Members of the European Parliament.

The Department is currently consulting on proposals to amend the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation. The consultation period will run until 2 June 2011. Consultation documents can be found on the Department for Transport website.

Convention on International Civil Aviation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on reform of the Chicago Convention on Civil Aviation of 1947; and what recent discussions he has had on any such reform. [57312]

Mrs Villiers: The UK believes that there is value in exploring how the Chicago convention could be reformed. The UK has, in the past, supported moves to amend the Chicago convention. However the 2007 ICAO Assembly and subsequent meetings of the ICAO Council decided not to initiate any action on this issue.

Since there is currently no international consensus on reforming the Chicago convention, the UK will continue to work through ICAO to achieve our objectives in alternative ways. In this regard, the UK has participated in ICAO meetings to ensure we influence discussions on a wide range of policies affecting international civil aviation.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many invoices his Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier 1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55858]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not keep separate records for payment performance to construction industry suppliers, and the cost of preparing such information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanism his Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each Tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55881]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport ensures that its contracts include a clause requiring its suppliers to pay promptly any sub-contractors they employ. Furthermore, any sub-contractors who are not being paid within the 30 day period may raise their concern with the Department by sending an email to:

DfTprocurementpolicy@dft.gsi.gov.uk

providing the title and reference number of the contract and the nature of their complaint. Should this not be resolved to the supplier's satisfaction, this can be escalated to the Office of Government Commerce Supplier Feedback Service.

Departmental Buildings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building owned by his Department; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such building. [53802]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport is a federated organisation comprising DFT (Central), the headquarters functions responsible mainly for policy issues, and seven executive agencies responsible for the delivery of various services.

The estate comprises over 1,000 freehold and leasehold buildings and includes offices, hangars, driving test centres, depots, vehicle weighbridges and coastguard rescue stations.

Information on buildings, including valuations, is not centrally recorded. Producing the information requested for such a diverse estate could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many CCTV cameras are installed in and around his Department's premises; and how much such cameras *(a)* cost to install and *(b)* cost to operate in the latest period for which figures are available. [56840]

Norman Baker: I regret that the requested information is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Redundancy

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria were used to determine whether Department for Transport Central staff in pay bands 6 and 7 would be made surplus; what the cut-off score below which staff were deemed surplus was; and if he will make a statement. [56490]

Norman Baker: As part of the re-structuring of the Department all staff were required to complete a self assessment form. The criteria used for assessment were competencies, performance and professional expertise. Staff were considered for all posts in the new structure and were only displaced if the moderation panel assessment determined that they were not suitable for the available roles. The assessment of individuals was a relative assessment based on the criteria and the requirements of the available roles rather than a fixed 'cut off point'.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many compulsory redundancy notices have been issued to Department for Transport Central (DfT(C)) staff since May 2010; how many such notices he expects to be issued to DfT(C) staff in each year to April 2015; and what steps he is taking to avoid compulsory redundancies among staff in his Department. [56491]

Norman Baker: Department for Transport Central (DfT(C)) has not issued any compulsory redundancy notices since May 2010 and the Department is working to avoid compulsory redundancies.

DfT(C) has established a redeployment and career advice centre for staff who have been unsuccessful in obtaining a position in the restructured Department. This centre is looking to assist staff in finding suitable alternative work and to give information in order that they can understand potential job and career options. In addition, staff who have been unsuccessful in securing a position are able to apply to leave the Department under a voluntary exit scheme.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many posts there were in each pay bargaining unit in his Department on 1 April *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011; and what he expects the equivalent figure to be on 1 April in each year to 2015. [56492]

Norman Baker: Information on posts is not available for all pay bargaining units because management of posts is through local delegation and is monitored by paybill and full-time equivalents (FTE). These details are available in the Department's annual report and resource accounts available from the website at:

www.dft.gov.uk

The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent discussions he has had with trade union representatives on the redundancy process for central Department staff; [56493]

(2) what steps he has taken to reach an agreement with trade unions on the redundancy selection process used for Department of Transport Central staff. [56494]

Norman Baker: If the Department for Transport Central were to run a redundancy process, full consultation with the trade unions side would take place in accordance with the Cabinet Office protocols.

All consultation with the departmental trade unions in respect of the recent selection process has been undertaken by the Department's officials. Consultation on the change programme began in May 2010 and is still ongoing.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what equality checks were in place to ensure that no bias occurred in the selection process when Department of Transport Central staff in pay bands 6 and 7 were deemed surplus; and what his policy is on equality in redundancy selection processes within his Department. [56495]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport carried out equality checks prior to each stage of the selection and allocation process. These took the form of staff in post and equality data analysis, by pay band, for each directorate group.

The Department will pay 'due regard' to equality, as required in the Equality Act 2010 and the single equality duty, if it were to proceed with redundancy processes in the future.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether an equality impact assessment was conducted before the job design process for Department for Transport central staff was completed. [56496]

Norman Baker: An equality impact assessment (EQIA) screening on the design principles was completed in July 2010 and an initial impact assessment in October 2010 before the completion of the final design, in accordance with our usual processes. The Department for Transport (DFT) Central pay band 1 to 7 Design Process Equality Impact Assessment Report, containing details of the impact assessments, will be published shortly on the DFT website.

Departmental Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data his Department has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months; and what such research and data collection exercises undertaken by the Department have not been amended in that period. [56762]

Norman Baker: A list of longitudinal and non-longitudinal research and data collection that has been initiated, terminated and/or amended by the Department in the last 12 months is provided in the following table.

Research initiated, amended or terminated in past 12 months

Title	*Initiated (I), amended (A), terminated (T)*
Value of Prevented Fatalities and Injuries—Phase 1	I
Advanced Biofuels: the potential for a UK industry	I
Scenarios for the cost-effective deployment of biofuel in the UK road transport sector in 2020	I
Amendments to the UK Renewable Energy Directive Art 19(2) report on emissions from cultivation of biofuels feedstocks in the UK	I
Child media consumption research	I
Christmas 2010 THINK! road safety drink drive campaign: post-activity tracking research	I

Research initiated, amended or terminated in past 12 months

Title	*Initiated (I), amended (A), terminated (T)*
Annual survey of attitudes to THINK! campaign, road safety and driving behaviour	I
Post campaign tracking research for the THINK! road safety 'Tales of the road' campaign, for Children aged 6-11	I
Evaluation of the 'Code of Everand' road safety online game, for children aged 9-12	I
Evaluation of THINK! road safety education resources for early years and upper primary children	I
High Speed 2 Rail Omnibus Survey (Pre consultation)	I
Station usage and demand forecasting at newly-opened railway lines and stations	I
Peak spreading fares study	I
Network Modelling Framework Script Development	I
Strategic Fares Model Updating 2	I
Responsiveness of rail demand	I
Comparing rail forecasting approaches	I
Implementing the "revisiting the elasticity-based framework" study	I
Van CO_2 Database Matching Project	I
GB Van CO_2 Database	I
Freight route choice using GPS data	I
Omnibus survey of public attitudes to bus travel	I
Omnibus survey of public attitudes to climate change and travel choices	I
Marginal Abatement Cost Curve Project	I
Market Maturity and Econometrics	I
Aviation Health Studies	I
Train Operating Company Cost Model	A
Emissions Model	A
Evidence Review of the Economics of Shipping and UK Ports	A
Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Shipping Services	A
Value of Travel Time Savings (VTTS) study—Phase 1	T
National Transport Model Version 4 Commissioning—Phase 4	T
Validation of the NTM using ASHE	T
Funding of the Transport Research Centre	T
Airport Development—Appraisal of Sustainability Scoping Document	T

The following list contains information on ongoing data collection exercises not amended in that period. Ongoing and completed research that has not been amended in the last 12 months is available on the Department's Research Management Database

http://www.dft.gov.uk/rmd/

Ongoing statistics/data collection

National Travel Survey

Roadside survey of registration marks

Carriageway work done

Skidding resistance

Survey of PSV bus and coach operators

Survey of light rail operators

Survey of bus reliability

Bus fares survey

Bus and light rail punctuality survey

Concessionary fares survey

Taxi survey

Blue Badge survey

Survey of civil parking enforcement

Manual and automatic traffic counts

R199b road lengths survey

National rail travel survey

International road haulage survey

Continuing survey of road goods transport

Reported Road Casualties (STATS19)

Breath alcohol screening tests in England and Wales

Seatbelt wearing rates and mobile phone use by drivers in England

Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of fatalities from reported road accidents

Passenger counts data

Continuing survey of road goods transport

International road haulage survey

CAA surveys

Domestic waterborne freight survey

Roll-on/roll-off goods vehicles survey

Sea passenger survey

Maritime Statistics Data System

Port employment and accident rates survey 2009-10

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50217]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has spent £155,617 on ministerial travel by ministerial car since May 2010. £7,958 has been spent on ministerial travel by train. Information regarding expenditure on bus journeys is not held in the format requested and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Details of all overseas travel is published on line and can be found at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/ministers/transparency/

Section 10 of the Ministerial Code provides guidance on travel for Ministers and makes clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much each executive agency of his Department has spent on travel by *(a)* private hire vehicles, *(b)* trains, *(c)* buses, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56070]

Norman Baker: The available information for each of the Department's agencies is included in the following table. Blank fields indicate that the information is not held centrally in the format requested, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

£

Agency	Private hire vehicles	Rail	Buses	Commercial air	Private air
Highways Agency	567,964	1,301,494	3,751	36,075	0
Driving Standards Agency	435,175	—	—	—	—
Vehicle Certification Agency	—	—	—	—	0
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	—	—	—	—	—
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	[1]418,953	161,740	[1]—	878,484	0
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	270,331	255,663	—	79,029	0
Government Car and Despatch Agency	—	—	—	—	—

[1] MCA does not account for private hire vehicles, buses and taxis separately. The figure given for private hire vehicles includes all three modes.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on travel in respect of *(a)* each of his Department's executive agencies and *(b)* the chief executive of each such agency since May 2010. [56182]

Norman Baker: The information for each of the Department's agencies is included in the following table. Blank fields indicate that the information is not held centrally in the format requested, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Agency	Total travel (£)	Chief executive travel (£)
Highways Agency	2,523,641	4,109
Driving Standards Agency	3,191,805	1,502
Vehicle Certification Agency	1,085,782	[1]29,616
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	—	6,400
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	1,812,447	1,350
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	605,024	4,541
Government Car and Despatch Agency	[2]201,000	—

[1] Some of the cost for the VCA chief executive will have been incurred for GCDA, as they shared chief executive between May and October 2010. The figures are higher than for other agencies as VCA has overseas offices.
[2] The figure for GCDA includes subsistence, as the agency does not account for travel and subsistence separately.

Electric Vehicles

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on delivering the second round of funding to successful bidders to the Plugged-In Places pilot scheme for electric vehicles. [56028]

Norman Baker: We announced five successful second round Plugged-In Places pilot schemes in December 2010, for Northern Ireland, Central Scotland, Greater Manchester, the Midlands and the East of England. These projects will be receiving match funding to install recharging infrastructure throughout financial years 2011-12 and 2012-13. The new projects are testing a diverse range of technologies and operating models and will help to inform the wider roll out of infrastructure across the country. We have been working closely with the new projects to ensure they learn from the experiences of first round projects. They will move from detailed planning to implementation throughout the coming year, with the East of England project the first to have installed charge points so far.

Exports: Livestock

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what powers are available to local authorities to prevent live animal exports from open ports. [57914]

Mike Penning: Local authorities have no specific powers to prevent live animal exports, and commercial ports (including municipal ports) are subject to a general open port duty. However, such exports must meet any applicable legal requirements about animal welfare during transport, animal health and animal identification.

Great Western Railway Line

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to ensure value for money for passengers when negotiating the new Reading to Paddington rail franchise. [57023]

Mrs Villiers: In January 2011, the Government published the document setting out how it would let future rail franchises. The details of this can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/2010-28/govresponse.pdf.

Great Western Railway: Franchises

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with representatives of First Great Western on the future of the Great Western franchise beyond 2013. [56140]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State and Department for Transport officials meet with franchised train operators and their owners regularly. These discussions have included First Great Western's expected decision in relation to the termination date of the franchise should it pass the franchise Continuation Review.

High Speed Two Railway Line

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* (i) Ministers, (ii) officials and (iii) special advisers in his Department and *(b)* representatives of HS2 Ltd have discussed with (A) the Chinese Government, (B) a Chinese sovereign wealth fund and (C) any other Chinese organisation financing or participating in the construction, operation or maintenance of High Speed Two. [56934]

Mr Philip Hammond: No such discussions have taken place.

Highways Agency: Fees and Charges

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency has carried out any feasibility studies on allowing the Highways Agency to charge the cost of event traffic management to event organisers. [56623]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency is currently undertaking a project to assess the feasibility and benefits of charging for event traffic management. The project is currently at outline business case stage.

Highways Agency: Fuels

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency have carried out any feasibility studies on reducing the fuel costs of traffic officers through (i) the use of liquid petroleum gas and (ii) sharing of fuel depots with other contractors. [56622]

Mike Penning: For the traffic officer fleet the Highways Agency has carried out a feasibility study on the use of liquid petroleum gas but has ruled this out, as the cost to upgrade the current fleet would be prohibitive.

The Highways Agency has not carried out a feasibility study on the sharing of fuel depots with other contractors.

Level Crossings: Accidents

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatalities there have been on level crossings in the last five years. [55321]

Mrs Villiers: There have been 47 fatalities at level crossings in the last five years.

The latest data on annual level crossing fatalities can be found at:

http://www.rssb.co.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/pdf/reports/Monthly%20Summary%20of%20Safety%20Performance%20March%202011.pdf

Members: Correspondence

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Hastings and Rye of 24 March 2011 on behalf of a constituent Mr Rhoderick Powrie, ref: AR/JA/1530. [57435]

Mrs Villiers: I replied to the hon. Member for Hastings and Rye's letter (ref: AR/JA/1530) on the 3 May 2011. The Department's reference number for the reply is TV/010735/11.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has calculated the potential change in revenue for the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency which would arise from reducing the number of MoT tests a new vehicle would need to a test after four years and every two years thereafter. [56034]

Mike Penning: A small amount of the MOT test fee goes to the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency to cover its costs in administering the scheme. A review of the MOT scheme will consider the impacts to Vehicle and Operator Services Agency revenue of any changes to test frequency.

Network Rail: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when he expects work on the drains under the West Coast main line in Euxton, Lancashire to be completed; [57682]

(2) for how long Euxton Lane, Lancashire has been closed due to drain failure on land owned by Network Rail; [57683]

(3) what steps Network Rail is taking to repair the drains under the West Coast main line in Euxton, Lancashire. [57684]

Mrs Villiers: The repair of drains under railway lines is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his questions.

David Higgins
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London N1 9AG.

Oxford-Hereford Railway Line

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what long-term plans he has for the rail line between Oxford and Hereford. [57329]

Mrs Villiers: We plan to improve both journey times and services between Oxford and Hereford. The redoubling of the route between Oxford and Evesham is nearly complete and additional train services are expected to operate from September. We expect the Intercity Express Programme to serve the route with faster trains by 2018, and Network Rail is reviewing opportunities to upgrade the track to enable further journey time improvements.

Piracy

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what non-lethal equipment for protection from sea piracy his Department is evaluating. [58151]

Mike Penning: The industry-developed document 'Best Management Practices' sets out a range of non-lethal ship self-protection measures which can help avoid, deter or delay acts of piracy off the coast of Somalia, in the Gulf of Aden and throughout the Indian ocean. The recommendations included in BMP are wide ranging and include the use of non-lethal equipment to inhibit boarding by pirates, such as razor-wire, electrified barriers, anti-climb paint, and water sprays; and the use of binoculars and night vision optics to assist in identifying potential threats.

The Department for Transport has previously evaluated a number of these measures as part of a research and development programme, and the results were communicated to industry.

Public Transport: Crimes of Violence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many violent assaults against staff of public transport services have been recorded in each of the last five years; [55315]

(2) how many violent assaults against passengers on public transport services have been recorded in each of the last five years. [55316]

Mrs Villiers: Information about assaults committed against staff working in rail and in the tube is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at:

British Transport Police
25 Camden Road
London NW1 9LN
E-mail:
parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk

The Department for Transport does not hold any information relating to bus crime.

Public Transport: Fares

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the change in greenhouse gas emissions as a result of introducing incrementally staggered fares for public transport. [56044]

Norman Baker: A system of incrementally staggered fares already exists for passenger rail services. Analysis of the estimated change in greenhouse gas emissions would be part of the analysis undertaken in any review of the structure of passenger rail fares.

The responsibility for setting fares on bus services lies with the bus operator for commercial services and the relevant local authority for contracted services. The setting of fares in London is devolved to Transport for London.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has carried out a cost-benefit analysis on introducing public transport fares that are incrementally staggered according to the time of travel. [56045]

Norman Baker: No such specific cost-benefit analysis has been undertaken by the Department for Transport.

Public Transport: Fuels

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what expenditure his Department incurred on the development of potential alternative fuels for public transport in the latest period for which figures are available. [55320]

Norman Baker: In the 2010-11 financial year my Department spent £4 million supporting the Carbon Trust's Algal Biofuel Challenge and Pryolysis Challenge. These programmes seek to develop sustainable advanced biofuels for the transport sector, including but not limited to public transport.

Public Transport: Tickets

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what date he expects the distribution of the second tranche of smartcard grants to deliver smart and integrated ticketing schemes in the 10 largest urban areas in England to be complete. [56030]

Norman Baker: The second tranche of grants was allocated in 2010-11 and distribution of this money is now complete. This is reflected in the updated departmental business plan, published on 13 May.

Railways

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average speed of passenger rail services was in each year since 1990. [57550]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. However, as an exercise, we have estimated the average timetabled speed of passenger trains on the British network to be 45 miles per hour (excluding station dwell times) based on the December 2008 weekday timetable.

Railways: Cost Effectiveness

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the cost-benefit analysis associated with his decision to proceed with the Intercity Express Programme. [54432]

Mrs Villiers: I believe that my hon. Friend is referring to the Intercity Express Programme, the Department for Transport's project to procure new high-speed rolling stock on the Great Western and East Coast Main Lines.

We intend to publish the business case analysis associated with this decision in due course, consistent with the transparency agenda that the Department has outlined recently. The timing will be dictated by progress on important commercial discussions with Agility Trains, the preferred bidder, which are currently under way.

Railways: Passengers

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of future demand for London to Alton passenger rail services. [57585]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport is currently working with Stagecoach South West Trains and Network Rail to assess future demand for London to Alton passenger rail services with a view to securing additional passenger capacity.

Railways: Snow and Ice

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department has provided to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* rail companies on who is responsible for clearing snow and ice from areas around railway stations, depots and maintenance and operational facilities. [56021]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has not provided guidance to either local authorities or railway operators on who is responsible for clearing snow and ice from areas around railway stations, depots and other rail facilities.

One of the recommendations from the Winter Resilience Review Final Report, published in October 2010, was that Network Rail and individual rail companies should make regular contact with local authorities during the winter planning process and season to ensure that the clearance of snow and ice is treated in a co-ordinated way across their respective boundaries.

We encourage all parties concerned to take forward this recommendation as part of their preparations for next winter.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he last met *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* representatives of train operating companies to discuss the implications of the Independent Review of Winter Resilience. [56022]

Mrs Villiers: I regularly meet Network Rail, representatives of train operators and other key industry bodies to discuss performance issues on the network, including the independent review of winter resilience, and progress made on the recommendations it contained. Further discussions will be held throughout the year in preparation for next winter.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has taken steps to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* advise rail operators on the allocation of small quantities of salt to treat (i) platforms, (ii) depots, (iii) signal boxes and (iv) car parks during severe weather conditions. [56119]

Mrs Villiers: The safe and effective operation of rail services during conditions of snow and ice is an operational matter for Network Rail and train operating companies.

The procurement and allocation of materials to address such conditions is under the control of these companies.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will consider the merits of a minimum floor price for certificates for waste-derived biodiesel under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation. [56538]

Norman Baker: As part of the Government's measures to address climate change, the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) ensures a growing proportion of UK road transport fuels are from sustainable renewable sources. The RTFO includes a certificate trading mechanism to increase the efficiency of compliance. The value of individual certificates is determined by the market. To date the RTFO has met its objective of driving a market for renewable transport fuels in the UK. Therefore the introduction of a minimum floor price is not considered necessary at this time.

We are currently consulting on proposals to amend the RTFO to implement the Renewable Energy Directive. These proposals include providing additional support for biofuels derived from waste that meet certain mandatory standards for sustainability by awarding two Renewable Transport Fuel Certificates to each litre of such fuel supplied. Crop-based biofuels will continue to get one certificate per litre, as long as they meet the mandatory sustainability standard. In this way the proposed change would give twice the financial support to biofuels derived from waste as conventional biofuels, and no support to biofuels that do not meet required sustainability standards.

Rescue Services

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport of 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 343WH, on coastguard services, for what reason the Parliamentary Under-Secretary subsequently wrote to the Chair of the Transport Select Committee on 10 May 2011 to indicate that regular coastguards had been instructed to decline the invitation from the Committee to give oral evidence to its inquiry into the future of the Coastguard Service. [56469]

Mike Penning: The purpose of the correspondence with the Chair of the Transport Select Committee (TSC) was to point out that regular Coastguards are civil servants and, as set out in the Civil Service Code, are accountable to Ministers, who in turn are accountable to Parliament. Where civil servants give evidence to Select Committees they are doing so, not in a personal capacity, but as representatives of their Ministers to account for Government policy.

However, many Coastguards have submitted their written submissions on the proposals for the modernisation of Her Majesty's Coastguard, either in response to the consultation, or to the TSC, or to both. Additionally serving Coastguards were able to talk with the members of the TSC when the Committee visited three Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres on 18/19 May.

Rescue Services: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what date he expects to make an announcement on the future of coastguard stations in Scotland. [57897]

Mike Penning: We expect to make an announcement about the modernisation of Her Majesty's Coastguard before the House rises for summer recess on 19 July.

Roads: Accidents

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* he and *(b)* his ministerial colleagues have visited any accident and emergency departments of NHS hospitals to discuss with staff levels of medical attention required to deal with casualties arising from road crashes involving drivers (i) exceeding speed limits and (ii) driving under the influence of alcohol since May 2010. [53781]

Mike Penning: Neither I nor other Transport Ministers has visited accident and emergency departments since May 2010 to discuss specifically the levels of medical attention associated with road casualties arising from speeding and drink driving.

The Government plan to take further action on drink driving as set out in its response to the North review about drink and drug driving, which has been published on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/drivinglaws/govtresponse/

Our approach to road safety more generally, including speeding, has been set out in a strategic framework for road safety, published on 11 May on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/strategicframework/

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in what year his Department first established targets for reductions in the numbers killed or seriously injured on roads. [55813]

Mike Penning: In 1987 the then Department of Transport set out the first road safety casualty target in the strategy document "Road Safety: The Next Steps" which was to reduce the numbers of killed and seriously injured on our roads by one-third by 2000.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether his Department has made an estimate of the change in annual road fatalities that would arise from reducing the number of MOT tests a new vehicle would require to a test after four years and every two years thereafter; [56033]

(2) whether he has carried out an impact assessment on his proposals to reduce the number of tests required under the MoT testing regime. [56043]

Mike Penning: The Department has recently commissioned independent research to examine how vehicle defects affect accident rates, and to consider the potential road safety impact of changing the frequency of the MOT. The 'Effect of Vehicle Defects in Road Accidents' report can be found at:

http://www.trl.co.uk/online_store/reports_publications/trl_reports/cat_road_user_safety/report_effect_of_vehicle_defects_in_road_accidents.htm

This research will be a useful addition to other information we will be gathering through the review process, including on the impacts on garages and MOT stations.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of a driver *(a)* being uninsured, (b) driving a vehicle without a valid MOT and *(c)* both on the propensity of that driver to be involved in an accident that involves (i) death and (ii) serious injury. [57114]

Mike Penning: No assessment has been made.

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents have been reported on the M1 between junctions 20 and 21 in each of the last 15 months. [57530]

Mike Penning: Accidents are recorded using police data and include all collisions where injuries are reported. Validated data are only available up to December 2009. Therefore there are no validated data for the requested period.

The following shows the validated data for the M1 between junctions 20 and 21 (main line carriageway only) for 2009.

	2009
Fatal	0
Serious	2
Slight	23
Damage	0
Total	25

Roads: Hexham

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to ensure that roads in *(a)* Hexham constituency and *(b)* other rural areas are cleared of snow and accessible in the event of severe weather. [57884]

Norman Baker: Local highway authorities, including Northumberland county council, have a duty under section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the local highways which they are responsible for including those in *(a)* Hexham constituency and *(b)* other rural areas. In relation to snow, a local authority's duty includes the requirement "to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice".

Central Government have no powers to intervene in these matters in relation to local authority roads. Therefore winter service planning and salt stock supplies are the responsibility of the respective highway authorities.

The Department for Transport endorses Well-Maintained Highways, the code of practice for highway maintenance published by the UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG). The section on winter service recommends that local highway authorities should draw up a winter service plan, which should determine how snow and ice on the roads will be tackled. It also recommends that highway authorities should review their winter service plans annually in consultation with a range of stakeholders. The guidance recognises that authorities may need to prioritise which roads need to be cleared of snow and ice and recommends that they include arrangements for keeping road users informed of their winter service plans.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons are for the time taken to complete the one-year post-opening project evaluation of the A595 Parton to Lillyhall improvement scheme; when he expects the evaluation to be *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* completed; and what plans he has to publish the results of the evaluation. [57657]

Mike Penning: This scheme was in an area affected by severe flooding in November 2009, which had a long lasting impact on traffic patterns due to the collapse and closure of a number of bridges. A review undertaken in September 2010, recommended that a one-year after Post Opening Project Evaluation (POPE) study should not be undertaken. However, the need for post-opening evaluation will be reassessed in 2012 when consideration will be given as to whether a 'three-year after' evaluation would be worth undertaking, or to wait until the scheduled five-years after study.

All POPE reports are published on the Highways Agency website, and are available via:

www.highways.gov.uk/evaluation

Roads: Snow and Ice

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has taken steps to commission research on methods of reducing the volume of salt utilised for clearing ice from roads. [56037]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 17 May 2011]*: The Department for Transport has worked with the UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG) and published guidance on the range of actions that can be taken in order to reduce the volume of salt required for preventing snow and ice forming on roads. This guidance is available on the following website:

http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/pdfs/Winter%20Service%20for%20Local%20Authority%20Practitioners%20v7.pdf

In addition, on 24 December 2010, the Department for Transport issued simplified spread rate guidance to local highway authority practitioners titled 'Winter Service Guidance for Local Authority Practitioners—Recommended Precautionary Treatments and Post Treatments Including Revised Salt Spread Rates'. This guidance is available on the following website link:

http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/pdfs/DfT%20Simplified%20Guidance%20for%20Local%20Authority%20Practitioners.pdf

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assistance his Department has provided to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the Highways Agency on preparations for the clearance of trunk and local roads providing access to airports during times of severe weather conditions. [56117]

Norman Baker: For those access roads to airports which are the responsibility of the relevant local highway authority, such authorities have a duty under section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 "to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice".

However, the Department for Transport encourages local authorities to have a robust winter service plan in place and expects authorities to communicate on a regular basis with the local community, including businesses and other key stakeholders within their respective areas, including airport operators.

With respect to the strategic road network, every year the Highways Agency produces detailed winter service plans setting out all aspects of the winter service to be delivered across its network during the forthcoming winter season, to keep the network safe and available for use through severe weather conditions. These winter service plans, which build on lessons learned from the previous winter season, are shared with key stakeholders and, together with more direct consultation, help to ensure that access to critical national infrastructure such as airports is maintained.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many additional vehicles were planned to enter service by each train operating company by March 2014 under the 2008 rolling stock plan; and how many such vehicles *(a)* were in service, *(b)* were subject to contracts signed between his Department and the train operating companies but where the vehicles were not yet in service and *(c)* were planned but contracts for which had not yet been signed on the latest date for which information is available. [56714]

Mrs Villiers: Appendix B of the 2008 Rolling Stock Plan set out indicative numbers of additional vehicles by train operating company.

The appendix can be found here;

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/rollingstock/rollingstockplan?page=6#a1016

The following table shows *(a)* the number of additional vehicles in service on 19 May 2011 and *(b)* the number of additional vehicles currently contracted by the Department.

Train operating company	*In service on 19 May 2011*	*Contracted on 19 May 2011*
One (NXEA)	80	188
First Capital Connect	153	153
East Midlands Trains	—	8
London Midland	28	28
Intercity West Coast	—	106
Chiltern	—	8
First Great Western	30	30
South Central	—	60
South Eastern	48	48
Northern	10	38
England—total	349	667

The Department for Transport has re-started discussions with five train operating companies (First Great Western, London Midland, South West Trains, Northern and Trans Pennine Express) about plans to provide additional carriages. The companies are currently developing updated proposals for consideration by the Department, and until these have been evaluated and commercial negotiations have concluded, it is not possible to be certain as to which rolling stock will eventually be used in each franchise.

Southeastern Trains

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the potential effect that the change in journey times for trains running between London Cannon Street and East Kent to be introduced from 22 May 2011 will have on the performance targets needed to be achieved by Southeastern Trains in order to avoid the payment of compensation. [57377]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 24 May 2011]*: The Department for Transport has not carried out an assessment into the potential impact on performance from the extended journey times as no approval has been given to amend the Service Level Commitment under the franchise agreement.

Southeastern recently brought to our attention that errors had been identified in how it had timetabled certain services from 22 May 2011. They advised that they had taken action which has resolved the problem for the majority of these services, including those with the largest increases in journey time.

However, there remain a number of services in the timetable that have seen small increases in journey times which the operator will not be able to resolve until the next change in December 2011.

Southeastern's train performance will be monitored against the timetable implemented from 22 May 2011.

I have asked my officials to investigate this matter and to seek assurances from Southeastern on the changes they plan to implement in their management processes to ensure that this sort of error is not repeated.

Speed Limits

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to publish the outcome of his Department's speed limit review. [43289]

Mike Penning: The review of speed limits was established by the previous administration. Coalition Ministers are currently considering their own approach to speed limits policy.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether his Department has concluded collecting information on 20 mph speed limit zones from local authorities; and when he plans to publish any conclusions arising from that exercise; [57455]

(2) when he plans to publish information from local authorities on the effects of the introduction of 20 mph speed limit zones. [57457]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has funded a review of the area-wide 20 mph speed limit scheme implemented in Portsmouth. A report assessing the impact of the scheme was published in October 2010.

The Department has no plans to collect further information on 20 mph schemes.

In our Strategic Framework for Road Safety, published on 11 May, the Department undertook to provide local authorities with an economic tool to help them assess the full costs and benefits of any proposed scheme. This will be available in the coming year.

Transport: Exhaust Emissions

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what process his Department has put in place to assess transport schemes on which ministerial decisions are required in respect of their greenhouse gas emissions; and when his Department next plans to review and revise its process; [56031]

(2) what guidance his Department issues on the appraisal of transport projects in respect of their greenhouse gas emissions; and when his Department next plans to review and revise such guidance; [56032]

(3) when his Department plans to implement its proposals that the benefits of low carbon proposals in transport projects should be fully recognised. [56116]

Norman Baker: We are strongly committed to ensuring that the carbon consequences of transport projects are properly considered.

'The Transport Business Case'

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/howthedftworks/transportbusinesscase/

published on 27 April sets out the Department's approach to producing business cases that support ministerial decisions, where the impact of a scheme on greenhouse gas emissions is an important element.

Guidance on the appraisal of transport projects in respect of their greenhouse gas emissions is published in the Department's appraisal guidance ('webTAG'). The latest guidance is published at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/webtag/documents/expert/unit3.3.5.php

The guidance is kept under constant review, and is updated annually. The latest update was published as definitive at the end of April 2011.

West Coast Railway Line

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the contribution by the Minister of State, *Official Report*, 31 March 2011, column 156WH, on high speed rail, what *(a)* assessment he has made and *(b)* evidence he holds on the levels of disruption to the West Coast Main Line arising from (i) previous upgrades and (ii) potential future upgrades. [55575]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 13 May 2011]:* A summary of the planned implementation arrangements (which includes details of planned possessions and diversions) for the West Coast Main Line (WCML) modernisation programme were made available in the Strategic Rail Authority's June 2003 "West Coast Main Line Strategy" (section 6.3 and appendix D), a copy of which can be accessed through the Department's and National Archives' website:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/wcml/westcoastmainlinestrategy.pdf

Possessions included a nine-day closure and 16 consecutive weekend possessions at the southern end of the route, and disruption was exacerbated by project overruns. For information on actual possessions and disruption my hon. Friend should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address:

David Higgins
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London N1 9AG

The number of passengers using the WCML today is double that at the time of the WCML route modernisation, so the impact of similarly disruptive works would be proportionately greater. Any upgrade to Euston within the confines of the existing station would be particularly disruptive, and far more so than the phased station redevelopment proposed for HS2. However, as there are no plans for further major infrastructure upgrades on the WCML, neither we nor Network Rail have made an assessment of the disruption associated with such work.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Armed Forces

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the ethnic balance of the *(a)* Afghan National Army and *(b)* Afghan police force. [56405]

Mr Hague: The ethnic composition of the Afghan National Security Forces is broadly consistent with the Afghan population demographic, including in terms of Pashtun personnel. Southern Pashtuns are under-represented in the army and the Afghan Ministry of Defence has developed a recruitment campaign intended to address this. The situation in the police is similar but Tajiks are statistically over-represented.

Afghanistan: Peace Negotiations

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made in the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. [57506]

Alistair Burt: In October last year, the Afghan Government established the High Peace Council to lead the Afghan-led peace and reconciliation process. The Council has convened Governors' Roadshows in provinces across Afghanistan to take forward the reintegration of former fighters into mainstream communities. It has also undertaken outreach visits to Pakistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan. Most recently, the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme Conference took place in Kabul on 10-11 May, supported by the UK and Japan. This provided an opportunity to review lessons learned so far and to build momentum as the Afghan Government consolidate the Reintegration Programme's implementation at the provincial level.

Ai Weiwei

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will make representations to the Chinese Government for the release of Ai Weiwei; [57521]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Chinese government on the detention of Ai Weiwei. [57522]

Mr Jeremy Browne: On 4 April 2011 the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), made a public statement outlining our concerns:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/
?view=News&id=579056182

His statement called on the Chinese Government to clarify Mr Ai's situation and expressed the hope that he would be released immediately.

On 11 April 2011 the Deputy Prime Minister raised Mr Ai's case when he met Shanghai Party Secretary and Politburo Standing Committee member, Yu Zhengsheng. I wrote to the Chinese ambassador regarding Ai's case and other human rights issues on 3 May 2011. The Foreign Secretary and I also raised Mr. Ai's case with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying when she visited London on 12 May 2011.

During my recent visit to China I wrote an article published in the *South China Morning Post* on 3 June expressing concern about the recent detention of activists including Mr Ai and called again for his release.

We will continue to monitor closely developments in Mr Ai's case and look for further opportunities to raise our concerns.

Bahrain: Foreign Relations

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Bahraini opposition figures. [57209]

Alistair Burt: Our ambassador in Bahrain has regular discussions with a range of political figures, including from the main opposition societies. These communications are ongoing. We will continue to engage, including at ministerial level as appropriate, to build support for dialogue and to encourage leaders of both communities to show real leadership by promoting tolerance and demonstrating a shared commitment to the future of Bahrain.

Bahrain: Politics and Government

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Bahrain; and if he will make a statement. [57210]

Alistair Burt: We remain concerned at events in Bahrain. Although the immediate situation appears calmer, there continue to be credible reports of human rights abuses. We urge the Government of Bahrain to meet all its human rights obligations and uphold political freedoms, equal access to justice and the rule of law. These do not run contrary to security, but are integral to longer term stability.

The Prime Minister met the Bahraini Crown Prince on 19 May 2011 and made clear that events across the middle east have shown that Governments need to respond with reform and not repression if they are to enhance the long-term stability and prosperity of their countries. The Government have encouraged the Bahraini Government and leaders of both communities to show real leadership by promoting tolerance and demonstrating a shared commitment to the future of Bahrain.

We believe that dialogue is the way to fulfil the aspirations of all Bahrainis. We urge the Bahraini Government to create the environment in which a dialogue can happen and at that point we urge all sides, including opposition groupings, to engage.

BBC World Service

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* the Russian Federation, *(c)* India and *(d)* China reached by BBC World Service broadcasts. [56332]

Mr Hague: According to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World Service, the weekly audiences across all platforms, including online are:

Brazil: 1.4 million
Russia: 830,000
India: 11.5 million
China: 1.4 million.

BBC World Service: Internet

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of the activities of the BBC World Service undertaken via online media. [56315]

Mr Hague: Online services are provided in all the languages in which the British Broadcasting Corporation World Service (BBCWS) broadcasts, including all radio output being available in audio.

The proportion of the activities of the BBCWS undertaken via online media varies from service to service and language to language. Journalists in most services work across multiple media. The proportion of activity directed at online provision within multimedia services varies from service to service according to the importance of the internet and mobile services as a means of news consumption in the countries and media markets each service serves.

Belarus: Internet

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Belarus on the treatment of dissident bloggers. [56325]

Mr Hague: I am aware of the pressure being put on dissident bloggers and other elements in civil society and the independent media in Belarus.

I and my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe, have released six statements since the December 2010 presidential election condemning the increase in human rights violations in Belarus. We have been active within the EU and in other international forums to put pressure on the Belarusian authorities to respect basic international standards of justice and human rights, which include freedom of speech.

Belarus: Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe is able to conduct an independent fact-finding mission to Belarus. [56310]

Mr Hague: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has worked actively as part of a group of 14 Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) participating states to invoke the OSCE's Moscow Mechanism following the crack-down on the opposition in Belarus during and after the December 2010 elections. The Moscow Mechanism allows for the deployment of an independent, impartial fact-finding mission if one state, supported by at least nine others, "considers that a particularly serious threat to the fulfilment of the provisions of the OSCE human dimension has arisen in another participating state".

The group appointed Emmanuel Decaux, Professor of International Law at the University of Paris, as its rapporteur. He began work on 6 May 2011. His report should be presented to the OSCE Permanent Council in mid June 2011.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Politics and Government

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress he has made in seeking agreement at EU level for action against those in contravention of the Dayton agreement. [57393]

Mr Lidington: The Government have consistently argued for an active and engaged European Union approach towards Bosnia and Herzegovina. The UK therefore welcomed the agreement reached at the March EU Foreign Affairs Council on a strategy that will reinvigorate the EU's presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while maintaining the safeguards provided by the High Representative and the EU military mission, European Union Force (EUFOR). Under its new strategy the EU will be able to deploy restrictive measures (asset freezes and travel bans) to protect against challenges to Dayton and stability. The UK will continue to work with EU partners towards the effective implementation of this strategy.

Bosnia and Herzegovnia: Politics and Government

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. [57348]

Mr Lidington: EU Foreign Ministers discussed Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Foreign Affairs Council on 23 May 2011. I outlined the Government's concern that, seven months after elections, there has been little progress towards the formation of a state-level government, that rhetoric and actions challenging the state continue, and that reform progress has halted. The Government have consistently argued for an active EU approach to these and other challenges. We therefore welcomed the agreement reached at the March Foreign Affairs Council on a strategy that will reinvigorate the EU's presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while maintaining the safeguards provided by the high representative and the EU military mission, European Union Force (EUFOR).

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Bosnia. [57356]

Mr Lidington: The Government are very concerned about the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Seven months after elections, there has been little progress towards the formation of a new state-level government, rhetoric and actions challenging the state continue, and reform progress has halted. We are active on the ground in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in all relevant international fora emphasising the need for rapid formation of a new state-level government, a responsible political focus on necessary and overdue reforms, and strict compliance with the Dayton agreement.

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies of the position adopted by Milorad Dodik on the Dayton agreement. [57357]

Mr Lidington: The Conclusions adopted by the Republika Srpska National Assembly on 13 April 2011 represented a serious challenge to the Dayton agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Government are fully committed to the territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and have repeatedly made clear that challenges to the structure of the state established by the Dayton peace agreement are unacceptable. The Government fully support the ongoing role of the High Representative and the use of his Executive "Bonn" Powers when he judges this necessary.

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to maintain the operation of *(a)* the Dayton agreement and *(b)* the rule of law in Bosnia and Herzegovina. [57358]

Mr Lidington: The Government have made clear that the UK will not tolerate attempts to undermine the Dayton agreement or the rule of law in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are active on the ground in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in all relevant international for a emphasising the need for strict compliance with the Dayton agreement and a responsible political focus on all activities and reforms necessary for the country to function properly and move forward.

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to maintain the territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. [57359]

Mr Lidington: The Government unequivocally support the territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Attempts to undermine the territorial integrity and structure of the state as established by the Dayton peace agreement are unacceptable and will be resisted.

We are active on the ground in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in all relevant international fora to ensure that this is the case.

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies of the resolution on a referendum adopted by the Republika Srpska National Assembly on 13 April 2011. [57360]

Mr Lidington: The resolution adopted by the Republika Srpska National Assembly (RSNA) on 13 April 2011 represented a serious challenge to the rule of law and to the Dayton agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and threatened to take Bosnia and Herzegovina further away from its goal of future EU and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) membership. The UK Government, Peace Implementation Council, and EU made clear that this resolution was unacceptable and should be repealed by the RSNA, as did Baroness Ashton in a meeting with Republika Srpska President Dodik on 13 May 2011. Republika Srpska President Dodik's commitment to do so must now be implemented swiftly and in full by the Republika Srpska authorities.

BRIC Summit

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies of the outcome of the Brazil-Russia-India-China summit held on 14 April 2011. [56328]

Mr Hague: The scope and conclusions of the summit provide further evidence of the place and role of these countries in the 21st century.

The Government launched their Emerging Powers Initiative, designed to elevate the UK's relations with the emerging powers.

As I announced to the House on 11 May 2011, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will shift its resource to the Emerging Powers, in particular with an increase of our frontline staff in China, by up to 50 officials and in India by 30, and with an expansion of our diplomatic strength in a number of other emerging powers, notably in Brazil, Turkey, Mexico and Indonesia.

British Council: Internet

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what work the British Council is undertaking online to promote British values. [56316]

Mr Hague: The British Council's online work reached 46.1 million people last year and is a major part of its activity in education, the arts and English language teaching to create and build trust and understanding of the UK. They have a portfolio of online programmes serving global audiences. For example they offer online materials to help both children and adults to learn English, and materials that help teachers of English around the world with their work in classrooms. As with their face-to-face work, their online programmes seek to demonstrate the values for which the UK is recognised and respected.

British Indian Ocean Territory

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on legal advice in respect of the Chagos Islands in each of the last five years. [55807]

Alistair Burt: Total spending on legal advice on the following cases:

2004-08: Bancoult 2—Judicial Review into British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) 2004 Orders in Council

2009-present: Chagos Islanders *v.* UK at the European Court of Human Rights

2010-present: Application for Judicial Review of the BIOT Marine Protected Area

Was as follows:

	£
2010-11	23,555
2009-10	36,486
2008-09	204,693
2007-08	114,853
2006-07	203,300

Total spending on legal advice for the BIOT Administration was as follows:

	£
2010-11	47,663
2009-10	29,088
2008-09	19,174
2007-08	15,177
2006-07	16,977

British Indian Ocean Territory: Environment Protection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on the maintenance of the Marine Protected Area around the British Indian Overseas Territory in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [55805]

Mr Bellingham: In the 12 months up to 31 March 2011 the total was £2,049,616.

British Nationals Abroad: Prisoners

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what eligibility criteria apply to financial aid for legal costs for British citizens imprisoned overseas. [58004]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government does not provide financial aid for legal costs for British citizens imprisoned overseas. As set out in our publication "Support for British nationals abroad: a Guide", consular staff cannot give legal advice, start legal proceedings or investigate a crime. However we do offer information about the local legal system, including whether a legal aid scheme is available. We can provide a list of local interpreters and lawyers, although we cannot pay for either. And we will put British citizens in touch with the charity Prisoners Abroad, with whom we work closely on prisoners' welfare issues.

Burma: Armed Conflict

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the ceasefire between Burmese government forces and the Shan State Army North in Shan state, Burma. [56940]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are deeply concerned by the reported breakdown of a ceasefire agreement with the Shan State Army North that has led to renewed conflict in Shan state. We understand that the fighting is taking place in the north-central area of Shan state, which is difficult to access and as such the information is hard to verify. We believe that the recent fighting was caused by the Burmese army's failed attempt to force the Shan State Army North to join a national border guard force. Our ambassador raised the issue of the ongoing conflict with the Burmese Government on 10 May underlining the importance of a political solution. The UK also highlighted our serious concern during a meeting with other EU member states on 25 May and underlined the importance for the EU to monitor the situation.

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the treatment of civilians by the Burmese army in Shan state, Burma. [56941]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are deeply concerned that the reported breakdown of a ceasefire agreement with the Shan State Army North has led to renewed conflict in Shan state. We have received reports which allege that the Burmese army has attacked local communities, whom they suspect of assisting the armed groups, and perpetuated human rights abuses. We understand that the fighting is taking place in the north-central area of Shan state, which is difficult to access and as such the information is hard to verify. In a Security Council debate on 10 May, we called upon all armed actors including the Burmese army and ethnic militia to protect the civilian population. The Government secured a strongly worded human rights resolution at the March UN Human Rights Council which called on the Burmese Government to end continuing grave violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including the targeting of civilians in conflict areas. The UK also highlighted our serious concern during a meeting with other EU member states on 25 May and underlined the importance for the EU to monitor the situation.

Burma: Drugs

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on involvement of the President of Burma with drug-related activities in Shan state, Burma. [56939]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have received no reports to suggest that the President of Burma is involved in drug related activities.

Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage charitable giving by Ministers in his Department. [57117]

Mr Lidington: Ministers carry out their duties in accordance with the Ministerial Code. Any charitable activities in a personal capacity are a private matter for them. Relevant interests are published by the Cabinet Office in the List of Ministers' Interests at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/list-ministers-interests

China: Internet

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the recently introduced restrictions on the access to online media in China. [56327]

Mr Hague: I am aware of ongoing reports of actions by the Chinese authorities to censor and manipulate online content in China, as well as reports of restricted access to social networking sites and microblogs.

Senior officials raised this issue with the Chinese delegation at the last round of the UK-China human rights dialogue in January, following reports of censorship targeting certain international websites.

Our embassy in Beijing have reported on the creation this month of the new "State Internet Information Office", and are seeking to engage this body to ascertain further information on its roles and responsibilities.

Cyprus: Politics and Government

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received regarding the arrest and detention of persons demonstrating at the treatment of staff at Cyprus Turkish airlines. [58010]

Mr Lidington: We are aware from media reports that the demonstration took place on 18 May 2011 and that 11 Cyprus Turkish Airline staff were arrested.

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received on *(a)* the recent demonstrations in northern Cyprus concerning economic measures and *(b)* the activities of the Turkish Cypriot police; and if he will make a statement. [58011]

Mr Lidington: Staff at our High Commission in Nicosia attended the demonstration on 7 April 2011 and reported that there were in the region of one to three thousand protestors. There was a large police presence in attendance but staff left before the atmosphere deteriorated. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received no official reporting on the activities of the Turkish Cypriot police.

Departmental CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many CCTV cameras are installed in and around his Department's premises; and how much such cameras cost to *(a)* install and *(b)* operate in the latest period for which figures are available. [56836]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not comment on specific details relating to the physical security of our sites.

For the period 2010-11 the FCO spent £143,931 on the installation of new CCTV cameras and associated equipment in the UK. This figure includes a one-off upgrade of our systems amounting to £141,000.

The operating costs for the UK amount to £57,769.

Information for the FCO's global network could be provided only at disproportionate cost so the data relates only to FCO buildings in the UK.

Diplomatic Service

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* consular and *(b)* non-consular staff of his Department were allocated to each overseas country on the most recent date for which figures are available. [56318]

Mr Hague: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 993-97W. Those figures include consular staff but for operational and security reasons we cannot provide a more detailed breakdown. They do not reflect recent changes in deployment in Libya.

Diplomatic Service: Internet

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage the use of social media in an official capacity by staff of his Department posted overseas. [56320]

Mr Hague: The Digital Diplomacy department in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) encourages the use of social media to deliver the FCO's foreign policy priorities. All senior diplomats are given digital training before heading out to post, including on social media. The digital unit is in constant touch with diplomats at post, working with them to increase their use of social media for use in communications, engagement and in monitoring, in order to gain a wider picture of events. Our social media presence is strong, and growing, allowing us to respond to foreign policy challenges in a new way. FCO missions and staff currently engage through Facebook and Twitter with over 300,000 followers across the two, and with a growing number of local-language social media in key countries (e.g. Sina.com in China). A significant, and growing, number FCO staff also write blogs, often in local languages, many of which are picked up by online publications in their host countries. We also make significant use of social media to get messages to British nationals in consular crisis situations and are working with social media partners to increase the reach of our presence on such platforms.

Elections

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements his Department put in place to enable its officials working overseas to vote by post in the May 2011 elections and referendum on the voting system. [57562]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides guidance to its officials working overseas on how they can register to vote in all UK elections. This guidance was applicable to the May 2011 elections and referendum on the voting system.

Embassies

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what overseas properties his Department shares with *(a)* other Government Departments and agencies and *(b)* foreign governments; with which foreign countries each such overseas property is shared; and what the location is of each such property. [56569]

Mr Lidington *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the response given by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson) on 7 September 2010, *Official Report,* columns 466-70W.

EU External Relations

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek a review of EU expenditure on external relations in the light of recent developments in the Middle East and North Africa. [56311]

Mr Hague: The negotiations for the EU's annual external budget for 2012, as well as the discussions on the EU's multi-annual financial framework 2014-2020, are due to begin in June 2011. In these negotiations the Government will press the EU institutions to ensure that funding for external action adds value and has a positive impact. The European Neighbourhood Policy is also currently being reviewed by the European Commission and External Action Service. The Government are pressing for EU spending on its Neighbourhood Policy to be more targeted and effective with a view to incentivising and supporting reform in the EU's Neighbourhood.

Foreign Relations

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent research his Department has undertaken on perceptions of the UK amongst the population of *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* the Russian Federation, *(c)* India and *(d)* China. [56396]

Mr Hague: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has not conducted or commissioned any research on perceptions of the UK in Brazil, the Russian Federation, India and China. The FCO subscribes to research on global perceptions of the UK, including in these countries, conducted by companies such as GfK and Gallup.

Internet

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with which of his international counterparts he has raised the issue of restricted access to online media in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [56390]

Mr Hague: I raise this issue regularly in meetings with my international colleagues. I raised these issues most recently with the Egyptian Government during my visit on 2 May.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the licensing for export to foreign governments of software that can be used for the purposes of censorship and limiting access to the internet. [56395]

Mr Hague: If an item is subject to control, as with all export licence applications, it is considered on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and UK Export Licensing Criteria, in light of prevailing circumstances and paying particular attention to allegations of human rights abuses. The UK will not issue licences where we judge there is a clear risk that the proposed export might be used to facilitate internal repression.

Software for limiting access to the internet is not subject to strategic export controls. However should such software contain a cryptographic capability then export controls might apply, depending on the details of the specific software and their full technical specifications.

Kazakhstan: Elections

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies of the outcome of the recent presidential election in Kazakhstan. [56331]

Mr Hague: The United Kingdom values its strong, growing relationship with Kazakhstan, where we are among the largest investors. We want to deepen that relationship.

We welcomed the decision by Kazakhstan's Constitutional Council to step back from moves earlier this year to extend the President's term until 2020 without further elections, and President Nazarbayev's decision to renew his mandate through the presidential election on 3 April. The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly noted, however, that the conduct of that election could and should have been better. We and international partners will therefore continue to encourage Kazakhstan to make real progress with its reform agenda.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on post-conflict reconstruction in Libya. [56955]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 23 May 2011]:* I have discussed post-conflict reconstruction extensively with ministerial colleagues, in particular with my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Defence, and the Secretary of State for International Development .

Libya: Oil

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of oil production capacity in Libya controlled by *(a)* the Gaddafi Government and *(b)* opponents of that Government. [56306]

Mr Hague: There are oil production facilities both in those parts of Libya still controlled by the Gaddafi regime and those controlled by the opposition. However, due to the disruption to the Libyan oil sector caused by the conflict and shining areas of Regime and opposition control, it is not possible to give an accurate estimate as to the balance of control of these facilities. Against this background, Government analysis indicates that at present the Regime has effective control over about 75 to 80% of Libya's oil production capacity.

Libya: Politics and Government

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with the Arab League on the political situation in Libya; what representations the Arab League has made on operations undertaken in that country; and if he will make a statement. [R] [55250]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, discussed the situation in Libya with the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Amr Moussa, during his visit to Egypt at the beginning of May. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was also in regular contact with the Secretary-General in March during the early stages of the crisis in Libya. Officials at our embassy in Cairo have been in regular contact with the Secretary-General and the Arab League as the crisis has unfolded. On 12 March 2011, the Arab League became the first organisation to call for the establishment of a no-fly zone over Libya. It has continued to take an active role in international efforts including as a member of the Libya Contact Group. Several members of the Arab League have committed military assets to international action in Libya, as well as humanitarian aid such as repatriation flights, medicine and supplies.

Middle East

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on *(a)* the rate of unemployment, *(b)* the proportion of the population in poverty and *(c)* the proportion of the population with access to the internet in (i) Morocco, (ii) Algeria, (iii) Tunisia, (iv) Libya, (v) Egypt, (vi) Jordan, (vii) the Occupied Palestinian Territories, (viii) Israel, (ix) Lebanon, (x) Syria, (xi) Iraq, (xii) Saudi Arabia, (xiii) Iran, (xiv) Yemen, (xv) Kuwait, (xvi) Bahrain, (xvii) the United Arab Emirates, (xviii) Oman and (xix) Qatar. [56398]

Mr Hague: The following table shows the data the Foreign and Commonwealth Office holds for the countries listed on the rate of unemployment, the proportion of the population in poverty, and the proportion of the population with access to the internet, where such data is available. Further information on the primary sources of this data, predominantly the World Bank and United Nations Development Programmes, is provided as follows and is publicly available.

Country	*Rate of unemployment (World Bank data unless otherwise specified)*	*Proportion of population earning less than $2 a day[1], 1990-2005[3] (UNDP unless otherwise specified)*	*Proportion of population below the National Poverty Line[2], 1990-2004[3] (UNDP unless otherwise specified)*	*Proportion of population with access to the internet (World Bank data)*
Algeria	11.3% (2008)	15.1%	22.6%	11.9% (2008)
Bahrain	15% (IMF, 2010)	—	—	51.9% (2008)
Egypt	9.4% (2009)	43.9%	16.7%	16.6% (2010)
Iran	10.5% (2008)	—	—	32% (2008)
Iraq	17.5% (2006)	25.3% (World Bank, 2007)	22.9% (World Bank, 2007)	1% (2008)
Jordan	12.9% (2009)	7%	14.2%	27.4% (2010)
Kuwait	1.6% (CIA Factbook, 2010)	—	—	36.7% (2010)
Lebanon	9% (2007)	—	—	22.5% (2008)
Libya	30% (IMF, 2004)	—	—	5.1% (2010)
Mauritania	7.3% (2008)	63.1%	46.3%	1.9% (2008)
Morocco	10% (2009)	14.3%	19%	33% (2008)
Oman	15% (CIA Factbook, 2010	—	—	27.4% (2008)
Occupied Palestinian Territories	26% (UN, 2008)	—	21.9% (World Bank, 2009)	9% (2008)
Qatar	0.5% (2007)	—	—	34% (2008)
Saudi Arabia	5.4% (2009)	—	—	58.5% (2008)
Syria	8.4% (2007)	—	—	17.3% (2008)
Tunisia	14.2% (2008)	6.6%	7.6%	27.1% (2008)
UAE	4% (2008)	—	—	65.2% (2008)
Yemen	15% (2008)	45.2%	41.8%	1.6% (2009)

[1] US$2 a day—at 1985 international prices (equivalent to US$2.15 at 1993 international prices), adjusted for purchasing power parity.

[2] National poverty line—the poverty line deemed appropriate for a country by its authorities. National estimates are based on population-weighted subgroup estimates from household surveys.

[3] Data refer to the most recent year available during the period specified.

Poverty data:

UNDP, Human Development Report, 2007/08, Table 3: p238-240.

World Bank:

http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.NAHC

http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.2DAY

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* UK-based and *(b)* UK-affiliated private military contractors operate in (i) the United Arab Emirates, (ii) Saudi Arabia and (iii) Bahrain. [57366]

Alistair Burt: We do not keep lists of UK-based or UK-affiliated private military security companies (PMSC) working abroad because there is no requirement for them to register with us.

The UK is a world leader in the PMSC industry: 36% of the 125 companies who have now signed the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Providers (initiated in November 2010) are UK-based—by far the largest national contingent. The code is based on principles of human rights and international humanitarian law, and sets out broad guidelines for the organisation and operation of the industry worldwide.

North Korea: Burma

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on North Korean assistance to Burma in relation to the development of long range missiles. [56938]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are aware of reports alleging that the Government of Burma is attempting to manufacture a range of weapons, including various types of missiles, under its memorandum of understanding with North Korea. Our ambassador to Rangoon raised concerns about these reports when he met the Burmese Defence Minister on 10 May. The Government takes all such allegations seriously and reminds all states to adhere to their obligations under relevant UN sanctions. We continue to monitor the situation closely.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with the Palestinian authorities since the date of the recent agreement between Fatah and Hamas; [56335]

(2) what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on the recent agreement between Fatah and Hamas. [56419]

Mr Hague: While I have not spoken directly to President Abbas or Prime Minister Fayyad since the agreement was announced, my officials have had regular dialogue with their Palestinian and Israeli counterparts.

We renew our calls on both sides to commit to peace talks, leading to a Palestinian state that exists in peace and security alongside Israel. Britain hopes that the announcement of reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas will lead to the formation of a government that rejects violence and pursues a negotiated peace, and we will judge a future Palestinian Government by its actions and its readiness to work for peace.

Police: Deployment

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has undertaken with the governments of countries in the territory of which undercover police officers have been deployed from domestic extremism units since October 2010. [57436]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not been involved in any specific discussions taking place with the governments of countries where undercover police officers have been deployed from domestic extremism, since October 2010. However we are aware that our Home Office colleagues have had discussions with the German authorities to clarify legislation governing the use of undercover police officers during this time.

Population

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely population of *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* the Russian Federation, *(c)* India and *(d)* China in (i) 2015, (ii) 2025 and (iii) 2050. [56401]

Mr Hague: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not made an estimate of population trends in these countries between 2015 and 2050.

UN projections from the World Population Prospects 2010 Revision are as follows:

(a) Brazil: 203 million in 2015, rising to 216 million in 2025 and 222 million in 2050;

(b) The Russian Federation: 142 million for 2015, falling to 139 million in 2025 and 126 million in 2050;

(c) India: 1.3 billion for 2015, 1.4 billion in 2025 and 1.7 billion in 2050;

(d) The People's Republic of China (excluding Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan) 1.4 billion in 2015, 1.4 billion in 2025 and 1.3 billion in 2050.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last discussed with his counterpart in the Russian Federation the policy of the Russian Federation on Sri Lanka and the position of Tamils in that country. [57325]

Mr Lidington: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, has not held such discussions with Foreign Minister Lavrov; nor have there been any recent discussions with the Government of the Russia Federation on the position of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. Ministers and officials regularly engage with the government of Sri Lanka and international partners about supporting reconciliation between Sri Lanka's communities.

Swaziland: Human Rights

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Swaziland on human rights. [57287]

Alistair Burt: The Government are deeply concerned at the human rights and governance situation in Swaziland, including restrictions on political parties, trade union rights, freedom of association, independence of the judicial and penal systems, gender equality and, most recently, application of the Suppression of Terrorism Act and violence perpetrated by state actors, including harm wrought against those in detention. We have regularly raised these issues, in robust terms, with the Government of Swaziland.

Following the anti government protests in Swaziland on 12 April 2011, the UK took the initiative in drafting and issuing an EU statement expressing concern at the actions of the Government of Swaziland. Our non-resident deputy high commissioner directly raised our concerns on human rights with the Swazi Foreign Minister on 13 April. Our non-resident high commissioner, with her EU colleagues, met with King Mswati III on 10 March, during which human rights and governance issues were raised.

Trade Promotion

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK businesses his Department supported in conducting business in *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* the Russian Federation, *(c)* India and *(d)* China in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [56319]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) is the Government Department that helps UK-based companies succeed in the global economy.

We estimate the following number of UK businesses were supported by UKTI in BRIC markets.

Market	*Estimated number of UK businesses supported*[1]
Brazil	1,149
Russia	609
India	1,219
China[2]	1,852
BRIC total[3]	4,642

[1] All data covers firms supported between October 2009 and September 2010 (PIMS 19-22). All figures exclude website premium contents ER events.

[2] Statistics for China are for mainland China only. These statistics also include companies supported by the China-Britain Business Council, UKTI's trade services delivery partner for the mainland China market.

[3] BRIC total adds up to less than total of individual markets as some firms are supported in more than one of these markets.

These figures are based on UKTI client records and validation through UKTI's performance and impact monitoring survey (PIMS)—an independently administered survey of some 4,000 of the 23,400 clients that received UKTI services over a 12-month period.

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* FCO Services and *(c)* Wilton Park are entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56443]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) follows the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) Code of Practice "Time Off for Trades Union Duties and Activities".

Trade Union representatives are as follows:

(a) FCO—six full-time officers and one part-time (50%) officer

(b) FCO Services—one full-time officer and one full-time vacancy

(c) Wilton Park staff are nominally also represented by *(a)*

To avoid individuals being identified we are unable to provide further details about how many of these staff are paid more than £25,900 annually or the cost to the public purse of their salaries.

This response corrects the information given in the previous answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 228W, by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), to my hon. Friend the Member for Witham (Priti Patel).

Tunisia: Politics and Government

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contact the Government is maintaining with emergent political groups in Tunisia. [57001]

Alistair Burt: Officials in Tunisia and London are meeting a range of party representatives.

Since legislation was agreed to enable new political parties to be registered in Tunisia, a total of 67 have been established and we are looking to ensure that we are in contact with key parties despite the difficulties in predicting which parties will emerge as serious contenders in the elections.

Uganda: Homosexuality

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Ugandan government on the Anti-Homosexuality Bill; and if he will make a statement. [56429]

Alistair Burt: The Anti-Homosexuality Bill, introduced in the Ugandan Parliament by a Private Member, was not passed during the parliamentary term which has just concluded. It remains to be seen whether the Private Member will introduce the Bill in the next Ugandan Parliament.

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham), called Foreign Minister Sam Kutesa on 11 May 2011 to raise our strong concerns about the contents of this Private Member's Bill. In its most recent form, the Bill would have further criminalised homosexuality in Uganda by introducing new criminal sanctions for members of sexual minorities and those who promote their rights. This in turn would have a broader, negative impact on the human rights of all Ugandans.

Along with international partners, our high commission in Kampala has lobbied senior Ministers in the Ugandan Government (including the Prime Minister) over a long period of time to make our position clear on the importance of respect for the rights of sexual minorities worldwide, and in doing so we have made clear that we will not deviate from this position.

BRIC Countries: Unemployment

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the rate of unemployment in *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* the Russian Federation, *(c)* India and *(d)* China. [56400]

Mr Hague: Official reports of unemployment at the end of the first quarter of 2011 were: Brazil 6.5%, Russia 7.1%, India 7.7% and China 4.1%.

BRIC Countries: Demography

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the proportion of the population of *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* the Russian Federation, *(c)* India and *(d)* China which is under the age of 30 years. [56399]

Mr Hague: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not routinely collect or hold information on the proportion of the populations of Brazil, Russia, India or China who are under 30 years of age.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many adults over the age of 24 years undertook a *(a)* full Level 3 qualification and *(b)* further education qualification above Level 3 in each of the last five years. [56701]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 23 May 2011]*: Table 1 shows the number of learners aged 24 years and over participating on a Government funded Full Level 3 qualification or a qualification above Level 3 in 2005/06 to 2009/10, the latest year for which final data are available.

Table 1: FE participation by learners aged 24 years and over by level, 2005/06 to 2009/10

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09[1]	2009/10[1]
Full Level 3	125,700	127,260	177,050	264,640	295,680
Above Level 3	59,340	52,030	45,960	50,560	42,420

[1] Figures for 2008/09 onwards are not directly comparable to earlier years as the introduction of demand led funding has changed how data is collected and how funded learners are defined from 2008/09 onwards. More information on demand led funding is available at:
http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/businessdefinitions/Demand+Led+Funding.htm

Notes:
1. These tables include Apprenticeships, Train to Gain, University for Industry, Adult Safeguarded Learning and Further Education/Learner Responsive Provision which includes General Further Education Colleges including Tertiary, Sixth Form Colleges, Special College—Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges and Art and Design Colleges, Specialist Colleges and External Institutions.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Age is based on age at the start of the academic year.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on Further Education and Skills participation and achievement by level is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 31 March 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Adult Education: Fees and Charges

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of adults will be required to pay a fee for a course to achieve their first qualification at level 3 in *(a)* 2011, *(b)* 2012 and *(c)* 2013. [58124]

Mr Hayes: In November 2010 the coalition Government published "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" which set out the planned changes to the entitlements to full funding Further Education and Skills for adults in England. Learners aged 19 up to 24 will be entitled to full fee remission for their first qualification at level 3. Outside of this entitlement, there is an expectation that the learner will share the costs with the Government; with co-funding in the 2011/12 and 2012/13 academic years, and the introduction of Government-backed loans from 2013/14.

The Statistical First Release[1] provides the latest data on the proportion of starts and completions for learners at Level 3. Based on historical data we estimate that 3,000 learner places at level 3 could become co-funded rather than fully-funded in 2011/12. However, as the further education funding system is demand led it is not possible to predict the number or proportion of adults that will be required to pay a fee for a first level 3 qualification beyond 2011.

[1] *Note:*
http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/index.shtml

Apprentices

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applicants for an apprenticeship aged *(a)* between 16 and 18, *(b)* between 19 and 24 and *(c)* 25 years or over are awaiting an employer place on the National Apprenticeship Service matching service. [57960]

Mr Hayes: Apprenticeship vacancies data do not show the number of individuals waiting for an employer place. However, they do show the number of individuals who have activated their account on the system and the overall number of applications submitted.

Data relating to candidates securing an Apprenticeship through the online system are not sufficiently robust to publish.

Table 1 shows the number of individuals who have activated their account on the system between August 2010 and April 2011. Table 2 shows the overall number of applications submitted between August 2010 and April 2011.

Table 1: Total number of individuals activating their account on apprenticeship vacancies, August 2010 to April 2011

	Number
16-18	161,160
19-24	103,120
25+	44,640
Total	308,920

Table 2: Total number of programme applications made by age group, August 2010 to April 2011

	Number
16-18	265,950
19-24	131,000

Table 2: Total number of programme applications made by age group, August 2010 to April 2011

	Number
25+	21,110
Total	418,060

Notes:
1. Figures for programme applications do not indicate individuals who have made applications, they are the total number of applications made and it is important to note that any one individual can make more than one application at any given time.
2. Figures in table 1 are the latest year to date data, from 1 August 2010 up to 30 April 2011.
3. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Apprenticeship Vacancy Reports

Apprenticeship vacancy reports are updated on a monthly basis and published on the fourth day of each calendar month available at the following link:

http://mireportslibrary.thedataservice.org.uk/apprenticeships/apprenticeship_vacancy_reports/

Apprentices: Barnsley East

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much he has allocated for level 2 apprenticeships in Barnsley East constituency in 2011-12. [58139]

Mr Hayes: The total funding available for apprenticeships is over £1.4 billion in the 2011-12 financial year. In support of the coalition Government's principle of greater freedom, "Skills for Sustainable Growth[1]" and "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" set out the abolition of central targets and increased freedom and flexibility for further education colleges and training organisations to respond effectively to the needs of employers, learners and their communities. It is for individual colleges and training organisations, working directly with their local partners, to determine the offer that best meets the needs of their communities.

Accordingly, take-up of apprenticeships by level and by region follows employer demand and we are not able to provide estimates of the geographical distribution of funding for level 2 apprenticeships as these would be either too broad to be of use or would be potentially misleading.

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[1] Skills for Sustainable Growth published by BIS

http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2010/Nov/skills-for-sustainable-growth

Banks: Regulation

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he has taken to ensure that the small business lending targets set out in Project Merlin are met by the banks who are parties to the agreement. [58158]

Mr Prisk: The Merlin Agreement set out the commitment of five major UK banks to increase the capacity of lending available to UK businesses this year. The commitment to make available £190 billion of new lending to businesses is up from £179 billion last year. £76 billion of this will be allocated to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), a 15% increase on 2010.

The Bank of England reported the banks' first quarter performance against the Merlin Agreement on 23 May. Lending to SMEs in the first quarter was £16.8 billion. This is disappointing and, although lending is not linear, the banks must do more to ensure that they meet their commitment over the next few months.

The commitment to lend to SMEs is linked to the remuneration of the banks' chief executives and senior managers responsible for business lending, but the Government are clear that, if the banks fail to meet their commitments, the Government reserves the right to return to the matter and take further measures.

We will therefore monitor the banks' performance extremely closely and if they fail to meet the commitments, we will examine options for further action.

Beauty Products: Channel Islands

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the effects on the viability of small shops selling beauty products of competition from internet sales of such products supplied from the Channel Islands. [56925]

Mr Prisk: We have received no such representations.

Business: Regulation

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effect on continued implementation of the regulations and legislation listed on the Red Tape Challenge website. [56912]

Mr Prisk: The Red Tape Challenge aims to take a comprehensive approach, looking widely at regulation, whether introduced through primary or secondary legislation or other means. It seeks views on where regulations are working well, as well as where they are imposing unnecessary burdens on businesses, members of the public or voluntary organisations or restricting personal freedoms. Ministers will then make decisions about which regulations to remove, improve or keep and they will follow the appropriate legal and parliamentary process. Listing a regulation on the website does not have any impact on its implementation.

Departmental CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many CCTV cameras are installed in and around his Department's premises; and how much such cameras cost to *(a)* install and *(b)* operate in the latest period for which figures are available. [56830]

Mr Davey: The Department has the following CCTV cameras installed around its estate:

	Number
1 Victoria street, London	59
Westfield house, London	14
Kingsgate house, London	27
10 Victoria street, London	9
151 Buckingham Palace road, London	16
St Mary's house, Sheffield	6

The CCTV cameras have been upgraded at the following buildings:

1 Victoria street in 2011 at a cost of £130,700.00 excluding VAT and

Kingsgate house in 2007 at a cost of £271,587.23.

CCTV cameras at other buildings have been installed for a number of years and obtaining the cost of installation would only be at disproportionate cost.

The operation and monitoring of the CCTV cameras across the estate is undertaken by the Department's security contractor and the costs are included within this contract.

Consumers: Protection

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the consumer protection for private buyers of wheelchair accessible vehicles. [57257]

Mr Davey: Under the Sale of Goods Act 1979, goods (including vehicles) must be fit for their intended purpose. If vehicles are purchased with wheelchair access in mind, they must be fit for that purpose whether that purpose is made known expressly or impliedly. If this requirement is not satisfied, the seller is in breach of contract and the consumer will have a range of remedies. The Government have no plans to change this level of protection.

Copyright: Internet

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to enforce the online copyright infringement sections of the Digital Economy Act 2010. [56616]

Mr Davey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), gave the hon. Member for Banbury, on 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 507W.

During a recent machinery of government change, responsibility for this policy area transferred to DCMS.

Correspondence: Fraud

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to protect vulnerable individuals from receiving fraudulent mail. [57280]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 24 May 2011]:* The Government fully appreciates the damage and harm that scams can have on their victims and families and recognises the need for a concerted effort to stop scams, which includes fraudulent mail.

The National Fraud Agency (which runs Action Fraud) and the Metropolitan Police are taking forward a strategy that will deal with mass marketing fraud holistically and they are engaging with partners and building a joined-up approach to tackle postal scams. This includes engagement with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Royal Mail who has been working closely with the appropriate bodies to stop scam mail from getting into the postal system in the first place.

Government strongly advises people to be very wary of unsolicited offers which sound too good to be true, as they often are. And in those cases where people receive material through the postal system which they believe may promote a fraud, they should draw their concerns to the attention of the appropriate authorities to allow them to take any necessary action. Scams can be easily reported to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or by completing an online fraud report via:

www.actionfraud.org.uk/

For advice on scams, people can contact Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06 or visit:

www.direct.gov.uk/scams

Creative Industries

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support the Government provides to promote the UK's creative industries abroad. [57892]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), working in partnership with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and industry partners, aims to promote the UK's creative offer abroad by maximising its export and investment potential. An online toolkit supports UK businesses looking to expand internationally and UKTI develops and delivers international strategies alongside tailored missions and showcasing activities to promote the UK and our creative industries.

Defence and Security Equipment International: Exhibitions

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which countries have been sent invitations from the Government to the Defence and Security Equipment International exhibition at the ExCel Centre between 13 and 16 September 2011. [57715]

Mr Prisk: The following countries have been invited to send official government defence and security delegations to Defence and Security Equipment International 2011 (DSEi11):

Australia
Austria
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Hong Kong
India
Indonesia
Italy
Japan
Netherlands
New Zealand

Norway
Pakistan
Peru
Poland
Republic of Korea
Romania
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Trinidad and Tobago
Turkey
Ukraine
UN
USA
NATO

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department plans to cease to fund any of its functions over the period of the comprehensive spending review. [55194]

Mr Davey: Over the course of the spending review, the Department continues to focus on driving long-term, sustainable growth while finding efficiencies and reducing levels of spending to meet the target savings. Around 10% of resource savings will be made by cancelling lower priority activities, for instance through ending Train to Gain and replacing it with small and medium enterprise (SME)-focused training programme, and through abolishing the regional development agencies in 2012. Reforms to further and higher education funding will deliver 60% of the total savings target, and the remainder of savings will largely be delivered through driving efficiencies.

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what advice his Department provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in his Department. [52809]

Mr Davey: For undergraduates, we currently offer two or three Summer Diversity Internships a year, further information about the scheme is available at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/faststream

In addition we advertise a number of opportunities under the Graduate Internship Scheme for students. Opportunities are advertised through the Graduate Talent Pool website, hosted by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not offer formal opportunities to undertake work experience or volunteer in the Department.

English Language: Education

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many women he estimates will be affected by the changes to English for Speakers of Other Languages provision in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* London and *(c)* the London borough of Newham in 2012. [57170]

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will *(a)* prepare and *(b)* publish an equalities impact assessment prior to implementing his proposed changes to funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages. [57294]

Mr Hayes: An assessment of how the changes announced in Skills for Sustainable Growth may affect English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learners is currently being carried out by this Department. I expect to be able to publish this before summer recess.

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date he commissioned an equality impact assessment of the proposed changes to funding for English for speakers of other languages courses; and when he expects to publish this assessment. [57943]

Mr Hayes: An assessment of how the changes announced in Skills for Sustainable Growth may affect ESOL learners was agreed in principle in November 2010 and formally commissioned in February 2011 and is currently being carried out by the Department. I expect to be able to publish this before summer recess.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will take steps to ensure that those on income support but not active benefits are able to afford to remain enrolled on courses of English for speakers of other languages from August 2011; [58153]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that persons on English for speakers of other languages courses funded by the Government and not on active benefits are able to afford to continue their studies from August 2011. [58154]

Mr Hayes: As part of the spending review tough decisions about departmental budgets have been taken and, like all other areas, further education has made its contribution. This has included reviewing the extent to which automatic fee remission for adult skills is provided, and in this context we have prioritised English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) funding to unemployed people in receipt of jobseekers allowance or in the employment and support allowance (work-related activity) group, where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment. We will continue to pay 50% of ESOL course fees for other people who are settled here. We will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace. Increased freedoms and flexibilities for providers will allow them to respond to the needs to their communities and determine within their funding where this is prioritised.

As set out by the Skills Funding Agency in Guidance Note 6

http://readingroom.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/sfa/skills_funding_agency_-_guidance_note_6_final_-v2_.pdf

any changes to funding eligibility and fee remission will be applied only to new learners. That means learners already in learning and continuing into another funding year will not become ineligible as a consequence of these policy changes and are encouraged to successfully complete and achieve their learning aims.

Equality Act 2010

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many responses relating to the Equality Act 2010 his Department has received as part of the Red Tape Challenge to date; and how many such responses he plans to consider. [57328]

Mr Prisk: Red Tape Challenge is a website which gives members of the public, businesses and voluntary and community organisations the opportunity to comment on the entire range of regulation that might have an impact on them.

As of the 20 of May 2011 the Red Tape Challenge site has received 5,078 responses relating to the Equality Act 2010. All responses received through the Red Tape Challenge site will be considered by the relevant Secretary of State in this case, the Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister for Women and Equalities.

Fossil Fuels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps UK Trade and Investment is taking to end support for dirty fossil fuel projects. [56289]

Mr Prisk: In line with the Department for Business Innovation and Skills' definition of the phrase "dirty fossil-fuel energy production", in point 18 of the coalition agreement, to mean unabated coal-fired power generation, UK Trade and Investment will not assist UK equipment or service providers to win international work on such projects.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he gave to seeking the inclusion of measures to end UK Trade & Investment support for dirty fossil fuel projects in its corporate strategy Britain open for business. [57362]

Mr Prisk: Careful consideration has been and is being given to the implementation of article 18 of the coalition agreement. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, is involved fully in the ongoing discussions across Whitehall on how the fullest possible implementation can be achieved. Within the framework of its corporate strategy—Britain Open for Business—UK Trade & Investment is also playing its part, including by strongly promoting exports of green equipment and services.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what definition of dirty fossil fuel energy production UK Trade & Investment uses. [57363]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment uses the same definition as the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: 'dirty' fossil fuel power generation means unabated coal-fired power stations.

Higher Education: Regulation

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to enable *(a)* further education colleges, *(b)* universities and *(c)* independent training providers to contribute to the Red Tape Challenge initiative. [57159]

Mr Prisk: The Red Tape Challenge website invites comments from all those affected by regulation including further education colleges, universities and independent training providers at

http://www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

It aims to take a comprehensive look at regulation on a rolling, sector by sector basis. Regulations specific to the education sector will be published on the website later this year.

Industry: Food

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of businesses in the food production industry are small and medium-sized enterprises. [58148]

Mr Prisk: At the start of 2010, it is estimated that 98.3% of private sector businesses in the manufacture of food products industry in the UK were small and medium-sized enterprises.

Insurance Guarantee Scheme Directive

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects agreement to be reached on the text of the EU Insurance Guarantee Scheme Directive. [58140]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given today to the hon. Member for Calder Valley (Craig Whittaker).

Intellectual Property

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on *(a)* maintaining the intellectual property in corporate brands owned by shareholders and *(b)* the role of brands in consumer competition and choice. [57573]

Mr Davey: It is the responsibility of the owners of any intellectual property (IP) to maintain and exploit the right in the way they believe most appropriate to their needs. It is, however, for the Government to provide a framework suitable for enabling such exploitation, balancing the interests of the IP owner against the public interest. The Government recognise that for many products and services, brands play an important role in facilitating competition and choice. They allow consumers to readily identify and purchase products and services they are seeking which offer the qualities that they associate with a particular brand.

Jewellery

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what regulations govern the sale and purchase of *(a)* precious metals and *(b)* gold and silver jewellery. [56715]

Mr Willetts: The Hallmarking Act 1973 makes it illegal to sell or describe any item as being made wholly or partly of gold, silver, platinum or palladium unless it has been independently assayed and hallmarked in the UK by one of the four UK Assay Offices or, alternatively, bears a hallmark struck under the International Hallmarking Convention. In addition subordinate legislation has, at various times, been made under the Act.

Joint International Unit

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reason he decided to close the Joint International Unit between his Department, the Department for Education and the Department for Work and Pensions. [58100]

Mr Hayes: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), did not take the decision for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to withdraw from the Joint International Unit. The Joint International Unit was an administrative arrangement between the relevant Departments. The decision to change this arrangement was taken by the BIS management board in December 2010 as part of a wider review aiming at improving the efficiency of BIS's international policy functions.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what functions the successor body to the Joint International Unit in his Department will perform. [58101]

Mr Hayes: The functions previously performed by Joint International Unit (JIU) officials reporting to BIS Ministers will now be carried out by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) (with the exception of the European Social Fund which remains entirely within the Department for Work and Pensions—DWP). This is mainly policy and programme activity in the area of international higher and further education. The relevant staff and budgets are being transferred to BIS from DWP. BIS will continue to co-ordinate closely with the Department for Education and DWP where necessary, for example where there is a single education input to a bilateral relationship or in one of the international organisations.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* staff grading is and *(b)* overall salary costs are for the successor body of the Joint International Unit in his Department. [58102]

Mr Hayes: In total nine posts were transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)—65 posts remain in DWP and 16 move to the Department for Education. The staff grading for the posts moved to BIS is as follows: two posts at Grade 7 level, two Senior Executive Officers, two Higher Executive Officers and three Executive Officers. The salary costs are approximately £440 000, which is being transferred from the DWP to the BIS budget.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the costs were of moving the functions of the Joint International Unit into his Department. [58103]

Mr Hayes: Not all the functions of the Joint International Unit were moved to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS); only the activities for which BIS Ministers were responsible were transferred across to BIS. The Department for Education's (DfE) international work has moved to DfE and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has retained its own international responsibilities. Budget transfers between the Departments are being made to reflect these changes. The costs of the physical move of nine members of staff from DWP to BIS premises has not been calculated, but is estimated to be less than £1,000.

Members: Correspondence

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to respond to the letter sent to him by the hon. Member for Witham of 7 April 2011 regarding Ms Amelia Rope; what representations he has made to the banks regarding Ms Rope; and whether he plans to make further such representations. [57275]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 24 May 2011]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, will respond shortly. He has raised the matter of fair access to credit for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) such as Ms Rope's business via correspondence; however, it would be inappropriate for Government to urge banks to offer finance to specific businesses contrary to their own risk assessment procedures. However, we continue to robustly support the case for the UK's SMEs in our discussions with the banks.

National Apprenticeship Service

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for how many days per week the chief executive of the National Apprenticeship Service is employed; and what his pro-rata salary is. [56457]

Mr Hayes: The chief executive of the National Apprenticeship Service is currently employed to work three days per week and his pro-rata salary is £96,000.

The chief executive's salary position is currently available on the Skills Funding Agency website:

http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/aboutus/transparencyingovernment/salary/index.htm

As part of the Government's transparency agenda, the salaries of all senior civil servants below director level will also be made publicly available. The publication date for Agencies is 31 May.

National Vocational Qualifications

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much funding was provided by his Department to each industrial sector in each of the last five years; and how many NVQs were awarded by each of those sectors in each of those years; [58104]

(2) how many NVQs have been started in each industrial sector in each of the last five years. [58178]

Mr Hayes: Information is not collected on how much funding was provided to each industrial sector.

Table 1 shows the total number of learners participating on National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) in England between 2005/06 to 2009/10. It is not possible to disaggregate this information across industrial sectors.

However, Table 2 shows the number of further education starts and achievements by Sector Skills Council in 2009/10. These have been categorised based upon the qualifications that a Sector Skills Council have formally agreed sit within their sector. The qualification footprint includes both NVQs and a range of other vocational qualifications.

Table 1: Further Education starts and achievements in Further Education by Sector Skills Council Qualification Footprint[1], 2009/10

	Total FE & Skills	
Sector Skills Council	*Starts*	*Achievements*
Active Leisure, Learning & Well-being	136,980	110,240
Adult Social Care	12,520	13,330
Adult Social Care/Healthcare	152,430	119,570
Automotive Industries	47,010	35,890
Automotive Industries/Customer Service & Contact Centre	10	0
Building Services Engineering	64,990	50,280
Business Information Technology & Telecommunication	224,970	153,020
Business Information Technology & Telecommunication/Business, Administration & Governance	—	10
Business Information Technology & Telecommunication/Creative Media	—	—
Business, Administration & Governance	101,010	73,450
Central Government including Armed Forces	33,380	24,410
Chemicals, Life sciences, Pharmaceuticals, Nuclear, Oil, Gas, Petroleum, Polymer	1,590	1,070
Children & Young People	93,220	72,760
Construction	158,090	128,870
Construction/Process & Manufacturing	—	—
Creative & Cultural	134,040	108,160
Creative & Cultural/Creative Media	2,180	1,680
Creative Media	30,810	22,190
Customer Service & Contact Centre	97,500	76,660
Employability	124,830	84,830
Energy & Utility	9,650	9,620
Engineering Construction Industry	1,080	1,020
Enterprise & Small Business	9,920	7,440
Facilities Management, Housing, Property, Planning & Cleaning	29,570	25,500
Facilities Management, Housing, Property, Planning & Cleaning/Construction	—	—
Fashion & Textiles	4,790	3,740
Finance, Accountancy & Financial Services	66,470	47,650
Food & Drink	14,370	13,100
Freight Logistics & Wholesale	56,580	47,730
Hair & Beauty	123,730	96,860
Health & Safety	33,900	32,720
Healthcare	93,010	85,680
Hospitality, Leisure, Travel & Tourism	140,150	111,340
Hospitality, Leisure, Travel & Tourism/Active Leisure, Learning & Well-being	600	440
Hospitality, Leisure, Travel & Tourism/Retail	780	660
Industrial Relations	—	—
Justice & Community Safety	5,040	5,390
Land-Based & Environmental Industries	59,510	44,420
Languages & Intercultural Working	49,830	35,660
Lifelong Learning	49,770	42,800
Local Government	—	—
Management & Leadership (including HR & Recruitment)	56,720	42,590
Maritime	3,990	3,390
Marketing & Sales	4,060	2,520
Paralegal	240	100
Parking	130	140
Passenger Transport	46,670	48,080
Process & Manufacturing	59,160	54,830
Purchasing & Supply	70	20
Retail	57,860	42,790
Science, Engineering & Manufacturing Technologies	106,890	84,810
Security Industry	27,920	24,330
Supporting Teaching & Learning in Schools	33,270	28,010
Not Applicable	5,702,840	4,411,020
Voluntary Sector	380	160
Total	8,260,970	6,426,790

[1] SSC qualification footprint includes all qualifications have formally agreed sit within their sector. This will include both NVQs, and other vocational qualifications.

Notes:

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. '—' indicates a base figure of less than 5.
3. Figures include Apprenticeships, Train to Gain, University for Industry, Adult Safeguarded Learning, Further Education/Learner Responsive Provision which includes General Further Education Colleges including Tertiary, Sixth Form Colleges, Special Colleges—Agricultural and Horticultural and Art and Design Colleges, Specialist Colleges and External Institutions.
4. NVQ/GNVQ includes Additional NVQ/GNVQ, GNVQ precursor and NVQ.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Table 2: National Vocation Qualifications (NVQ) participation and achievement, 2005/06 to 2009/10

		2005/06	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
NVQ/ GNVQ	Participation	511,770	670,030	1,122,210	1,291,440	1,130,020
	Achievement	290,880	359,690	494,340	719,020	721,850

Notes:

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. '—' indicates a base figure of less than 5.
3. Figures include Apprenticeships, Train to Gain, University for Industry, Adult Safeguarded Learning, Further Education/Learner Responsive Provision which includes General Further Education Colleges including Tertiary, Sixth Form Colleges, Special Colleges—Agricultural and Horticultural and Art and Design Colleges, Specialist Colleges and External Institutions.
4. NVQ/GNVQ includes Additional NVQ/GNVQ, GNVQ precursor and NVQ but does not include non-vocational qualifications.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Nuclear Energy: Government Assistance

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department provides to assist businesses in the nuclear energy sector. [57320]

Mr Prisk: The Department seeks to enable UK businesses, particularly manufacturers, to benefit from opportunities resulting from the growing global civil nuclear market. This has been mainly in the form of providing market information, helping to develop capability and competitiveness, and support for research and innovation.

The provision of such support has been made primarily via the Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (NAMRC), for which this Department provided a £30 million capital and start-up grant, and via the low carbon and advanced manufacturing elements of the Manufacturing Advisory Service, which has included assistance on civil nuclear new build and decommissioning opportunities.

In addition, a grant for business investment has been provided to Rolls-Royce towards the development of a new civil nuclear facility in an assisted area. This was part of a £45 million package deal that will also see the company build new aerospace facilities in the UK.

Direct and indirect support is also provided to various companies through the activities of the BIS funded research councils and Technology Strategy Board (TSB). This includes: funding for research and training provided to universities, which often collaborate with business; through research council funded activities; recent funding of £2 million for business-led feasibility projects via the TSB, and further funding for NAMRC which will be supported as one of the seven partners that will come together to form the first Technology and Innovation Centre, focused on high value manufacturing.

Oil

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which UK-based companies which develop and export tar sands oil extraction technologies were in receipt of support from UK Trade & Investment on the latest date for which information is available. [56287]

Mr Prisk: The technology used to extract oil sands has not been seen as sufficiently distinct from more mainstream oil and gas technology to warrant a separate classification in UK Trade & Investment's Customer Relationship Management system. It is therefore not a straightforward matter to identify companies with specifically oil sands-related equipment and services that have made use of UKTI services.

Researching a comprehensive list would incur a disproportionate cost. However, in recent years the companies on the following list have all taken part in UKTI missions, or other initiatives, related to Canadian oil sands developments.

4Projects Ltd
Argon (Isotank) Ltd
Aubin Ltd
B2M Ltd
Caledonian Flow Systems Ltd
Caledyne Ltd
Centrifuges Unlimited
CiTECH Energy Recovery Systems Ltd
CMP Products
DNV Energy
Fircroft Engineering Services Ltd
FTV Proclad International Ltd
Global Data
Hydro Group plc
Hydrobolt Ltd
IMV Projects (Wood Group)
JAB Recruitment
Latent Ltd
Leighs Paints
McLaren Software
Monitor Management Control Systems
Neftemer Ltd
OPS Group Ltd
Poyry Energy (Aberdeen) Ltd
R & A Energy Ltd
Rawell Environmental Ltd
RBG Ltd
Scopus Engineering Ltd
STATS (UK) Ltd
Surface Active Solutions Ltd
Technor
The Fifth Business Ltd
Thomas Broadbent & Sons Ltd
Tracerco
TUV NEL Ltd
Walker Technical Resources Ltd
Wessington Cryogenics Ltd

Overseas Companies: Japan

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the Japanese earthquake on British businesses working in that country; and what support his Department has provided to such companies. [56397]

Mr Prisk: Most British companies with significant interests in Japan have returned to normal business. One or two, with assets in the affected Tohoku region, suffered direct damage and are working on repair and recovery.

A poll of foreign companies conducted by the Foreign Chambers in Japan found uncertainty about the economic situation, and sales forecasts in the short-term. But 65% of the companies polled were looking for further growth, with only 1% considering withdrawing.

The Japanese suppliers of some British companies have been badly affected by loss of production facilities, damage to supply chain partners or the disruption to energy supply. But many are now returning to normal operations, although we expect the longer term impact will be felt for some time, in supply chains globally.

Our UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) teams, based in Tokyo and Osaka, have been in close touch with British business in Japan throughout the crisis. As concerns over the Fukushima nuclear crisis grew, British firms participated in telephone calls with Government chief scientific adviser, Sir John Beddington, who explained the situation and took questions. Transcripts were made available via our embassy website and through social media. We also assisted some British companies with the process of importing iodine tablets for their staff, and also provided iodine as a precaution to British nationals and their dependents.

We continue to provide British companies with accurate and up-to-date information on doing business in Japan, which remains the world's third largest economy and a significant market for UK exporters. We are advising on current business opportunities in a range of sectors, including some arising from the reconstruction and recovery programme. Our UKTI team is ready to assist any UK business considering their next steps in the country, as well as any UK company in Japan in need of assistance or advice.

Finally, I am very grateful to those British businesses who generously supported Her Majesty's Government own consular relief effort, for example by making cars or hotel rooms available for our use. Others took their own initiatives to provide goods and assistance to the stricken area for Japanese nationals. The UKTI team worked closely with the British Chamber to match requests for emergency supplies to what companies could offer.

Prisoners: Education

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to provide relevant skills to offenders to enable them to find work when they leave HM Prison Latchmere House. [57322]

Mr Hayes: "Making Prisons Work: Skills for Rehabilitation", published on 18 May 2011, sets out our reform programme for offender learning, marking a departure from existing practice.

We will make prisons places where people learn skills to build lives beyond crime, placing a much greater focus on developing the vocational skills demanded by employers in the areas to which prisoners are to be released. We will put in place new learning delivery contracts that focus on clusters of prisons between which prisoners tend to move, putting a new emphasis on decentralised control and accountability.

That means prisoners preparing for release from HMP Latchmere House will, as our reform programme takes effect, benefit increasingly from a co-ordinated programme of vocational activity. That activity will be delivered in a coherent way across the establishments from which HMP Latchmere House receives prisoners, focusing on the vocational skills demanded by London's employers.

To bolster this, we will reflect the Government's focus on payment by results by introducing outcome incentive payments: learning providers' payments will be based, in part, on their success in helping get people into jobs.

Regulation

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials in his Department are working on the Red Tape Challenge; what the grade is of each such staff member; and what the salary costs are for those officials. [58097]

Mr Prisk: There are four members of staff assigned on a full-time basis to the Red Tape Challenge. One grade 6; one grade 7 and two HEO(D)'s. The total average pay cost for these grades which include average salary, ERNIC and superannuation costs are £81,671.00; £65,645.00 and £36,205.00 respectively. The total cost for the team are therefore £219,706.00. There are a number of other officials throughout the Department who have contributed to the Red Tape Challenge. The time spent by these officials on the project is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish the process by which responses to the Red Tape Challenge will be assessed. [58098]

Mr Prisk: All responses to the Red Tape Challenge site will be considered by the relevant Secretary of State. Any proposals for change to existing regulation will receive full consideration as to whether they are proportionate, practical, beneficial and in keeping with our wider commitments and legal obligations such as European legislation. This will of course include appropriate public consultation and parliamentary scrutiny.

Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data his Department has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months; and what such research and data collection exercises undertaken by the Department have not been amended in that period. [56756]

Mr Davey: This information cannot be provided due to disproportionate costs.

Science and Innovation Network

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 777W, on the Science and Innovation Network, what assessment he has made of the effects on the Science and Innovation Network of reductions in expenditure on overseas diplomatic missions by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [58180]

Mr Willetts: As part of the 2010 spending review outcome the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and this Department agreed to continue to fund the Science and Innovation Network (SIN) direct costs on a 50/50 basis with a flat cash budget from 2011-12 to 2014-15. This positive outcome from a challenging spending review recognises the value of the BIS/FCO Science and Innovation Network in promoting UK prosperity and growth and will enable it to continue to play an important role in promoting and supporting UK science and innovation internationally.

The agreement enables SIN to maintain a strong presence in the highest priority countries as well as extend its coverage. In particular it will strengthen its teams in Brazil and Russia and create new teams in the middle east and Africa. This strategic reorganisation will improve alignment with HM Government's priorities and maximise value for money.

Space Technology

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to support the UK space industry. [57957]

Mr Willetts: In the spending review settlement, the Department allocated around £850 million to space activities in the European Space Agency (ESA) and at a national level. This ensures the continued UK involvement in key programmes, and the UK Space Agency works with ESA to ensure the UK industrial return from these programmes. In addition, as part of the 2011 budget, £10 million was provided to enhance the National Technology Programme and to accelerate the development of the International Space Innovation Centre in Harwell. We have also implemented the creation of the UK Space Agency in April this year. The Government are also continuing to work closely with industry to implement the growth recommendations set out in the industry-led Space Innovation and Growth Strategy published in 2010.

Supermarkets: Prices

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of sales in supermarkets of bread at a retail price below the cost of production on *(a)* employment conditions of workers and *(b)* competition in the food industry. [58177]

Mr Davey: None. Matters relating to the impact of below cost selling on competition in markets fall within the remit of the Office of Fair Trading.

Tobacco: Packaging

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will ensure that no regulation is introduced requiring the plain packaging of tobacco products which would remove the ability of manufacturers to distinguish their products through branding. [57510]

Mr Prisk: In March the Government published "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Tobacco Control Plan for England". Within this plan, the Government have committed to look at whether the plain packaging of tobacco products could be effective in reducing the number of people who take up smoking and in supporting adult smokers who want to quit. The Government will undertake a full public consultation on options to reduce the promotional impact of tobacco packaging, including plain packaging, before the end of 2011. The Government have no preferred options at this time.

UK Trade & Investment Defence and Security Organisation

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what priority markets the UK Trade & Investment Defence and Security Organisation has identified for 2011-12. [57714]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) has not published a list of priority markets for 2011/12, as this is under review, but plans to do so later in the year. While UKTI DSO will focus resources for priority markets, it will not ignore opportunities in other markets.

Video Games: Overseas Trade

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much UK Trade & Investment spent through the Tradeshow Access Programme to enable UK video game developers to attend overseas trade shows in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [57405]

Mr Prisk: Through UK Trade & Investment's Tradeshow Access Programme (TAP), £55,000 was spent in financial year 2009-10 and £56,000 was spent in financial year 2010-11 on assisting UK video games businesses exhibit at overseas trade shows.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 7 June 2011

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers are available to local authorities to introduce a local minimum unit price for alcoholic drinks. [56699]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 23 May 2011]:* Local authorities could consider using powers in the Licensing Act 2003 or Local Government Act 1972 to introduce in their areas a local minimum unit price for alcoholic drinks. However, we continue to have reservations about the legality of such an approach. In each case, a local authority will need to ensure that their decision complies with all relevant EU and domestic law.

Earlier this year the Government announced their intention to ban the sale of alcohol below the cost of duty plus VAT. The ban is an important step to tackle the worst instances of deep discounting. It is intended to be in place by the end of the year.

Animal Experiments: Dogs

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dogs of each breed were imported for use in laboratory experiments in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* 2011 to date. [56135]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office does not record the information requested. Table 1 of the published annual "Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain" records the number of scientific procedures by species and primary purpose; table 1a records the number of animals used by species and primary purpose; and table 2 records the number of scientific procedures conducted by source of animals listed in schedule 2 to the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, including dogs. Annual statistics for 2008 and 2009 are the most recent currently available. Annual statistics for 2010 will be published later in 2011.

The annual publication "Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain" is available via the Library of the House and on the Home Office website.

Arrest Warrants

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for surrender under the European Arrest Warrant the Serious Organised Crime Agency has received from each other requesting authority in each of the last five years. [57641]

Damian Green: The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (for Scotland) are the designated authorities in the UK responsible for processing European Arrest Warrants (EAWs).

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the number of requests received by each requesting member state prior to April 2009 due to the way that data was recorded prior to this date.

The following table shows the EAW requests from each requesting member state for the financial year 2009-10.

The data for the financial year 2010-11 is currently being verified and will be published in the SOCA annual report in July 2011.

Country	*Total*
Austria	30
Belgium	90
Bulgaria	42
Cyprus	8
Czech Republic	120
Denmark	3
Estonia	6
Finland	6
France	106
Germany	235
Greece	22
Hungary	72
Ireland	43
Italy	100
Latvia	55
Lithuania	183
Luxembourg	2
Malta	3
The Netherlands	112
Poland	2,403
Portugal	23
Romania	197
Slovakia	54
Slovenia	7
Spain	167
Sweden	11
Total	4,100

Arrest Warrants: Romania

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many European arrest warrants have been issued for the surrender to the UK of suspects in Romania in each of the last five years; and how many such warrants *(a)* have been (i) executed and (ii) refused by the Romanian authorities and *(b)* are awaiting a reply. [57602]

Damian Green: The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (for Scotland) are the designated authorities in the UK responsible for processing European Arrest Warrants (EAWs).

Between Romania joining the EU in January 2007 and April 2009, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the number of EAW requests issued to each member state due to the way that data was recorded prior to this date.

For the financial year 2009-10 the UK issued three EAW requests to Romania.

(i) In the same time period two individuals were surrendered to the UK from Romania under an EAW.

(ii) None of the warrants issued were refused by the Romanian authorities.

(iii) A person subject to an EAW is not always surrendered in the same year in which the request is made. Until the individual is arrested and the requesting member state informed there is no requirement for the recipient member state or states to reply to the warrant.

The data for the financial year 2010-11 is currently being verified and will be published in the SOCA annual report in July 2011.

Asylum: Africa

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to publish a new *(a)* operational guidance and *(b)* country of origin report for each country in Africa; and if she will make a statement; [57662]

(2) for what reasons the *(a)* operational guidance and *(b)* country of origin report for the Democratic Republic of Congo has not been updated since December 2008; and if she will make a statement; [57663]

(3) when she expects to update the *(a)* operational guidance and *(b)* country of origin report for the Democratic Republic of Congo; and if she will make a statement; [57664]

(4) on what dates the *(a)* operational guidance and *(b)* country of origin reports were updated for each country in Africa in the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [57665]

Damian Green: Operational guidance notes are currently published on a flexible rolling programme on a six or nine-monthly basis and focus on the top asylum intake countries. Production of operational guidance notes outside the top 20 asylum intake countries is prioritised according to changes in country situation, case law or other external factors as they arise. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has generally been outside the top 20 asylum producing countries since 2008. The next operational guidance note for the DRC is scheduled for publication by 31 July.

The last Country of Origin (COI) report on the Democratic Republic of Congo was published in June 2009. COI reports are generally produced on the 20 countries generating the most asylum applications in the UK or where there is particular operational need. As stated above the DRC has generally been outside of the top 20 countries since 2008. The next COI report on the DRC is scheduled to be published in July 2011.

A table detailing the forthcoming dates for publication of operational guidance notes and COI reports for African countries and the dates of updates over the last 10 years has been placed in the House Library.

Asylum: Appeals

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time is for an unsuccessful application for asylum to be heard at a first tier tribunal. [57261]

Damian Green: The average waiting time for an unsuccessful application for asylum to be heard at a first tier tribunal is 74 calendar days.

All figures quoted are provisional, based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics and may be subject to change.

Birth Certificates: Data Protection

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the risks associated with unrestricted access to birth certificates. [57984]

Damian Green: Current legislation provides that in order to obtain a certified copy of a birth register entry an applicant must supply sufficient information to enable the entry to be identified from the relevant index and to pay the statutory fee.

A specific assessment of the risks associated with this access framework has not been made.

Crime

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the potential links between social and geographic mobility and rates of *(a)* homicide and *(b)* other crime. [57134]

Nick Herbert: There is not a simple link between changes in social and geographic mobility and rates of homicide and crime. It is not possible to disentangle changes in social and geographic mobility from other factors that may have contributed to changes in rates of homicide and crime.

Crime: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the effects of crimemapping on levels of crime *(a)* in the west midlands and *(b)* nationally since May 2010. [56956]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 24 May 2011]*: Greater transparency is at the heart of the Government's commitment to open up and allow the public to hold it, and local services, to account.

This is why, from January 2011, the Government have empowered communities to hold the police to account and transform the way in which local police and communities work together to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour issues.

Since its launch, the Police.uk website has received over 415 million hits, demonstrating the significant public appetite for such truly local information.

No assessment has yet been made of the direct effect of crimemapping on levels of crime in the west midlands or nationally.

Departmental Honours

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many entry clearance officers her Department successfully nominated for the award of an honour in each of the last 10 years. [57596]

Damian Green: We do not hold information prior to the Queen's birthday 2008 honours round and cannot therefore provide numbers of entry clearance officers who have received an honour in the preceding years. However, since the Queen's birthday 2008 round, our records indicate that no entry clearance officers have been nominated or have received an honour.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of her Department's employees categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [57608]

Damian Green: I can confirm information on changes in the number of the Department's employees is published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as part of its Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES). Published ACSES data is available on the ONS website, at the following address:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899

The latest available data, as at 31 March 2010, can be found under "Civil Service 2010 Tables" in table 9 (giving information on the whole civil service) and table 40 (giving information on the Home Office and its agencies).

ONS collects data from across the civil service on reason for leaving (for those employees who left the civil service in the 12 months up to the survey date, usually 31 March each year). ONS is currently working closely with Departments to improve the quality of information that is supplied. However, this is an annual survey and there are currently no plans to change the frequency of collection.

The Home Office is fully committed to meeting the Government's transparency agenda and is actively considering ways to make more of its key HR data more readily available. However, the Department has clear obligations to its employees to ensure that personal data is not released, and that it is not published at a level that could lead to the inappropriate identification of individual employees. In addition, and in line with the Statistics Authority code of practice, the Department has a responsibility to ensure that any data released is reliable and of a good quality, and any change in reporting frequency and content needs to be agreed with ONS and the chief statistician.

Departmental Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of her Department's budget she expects to be spent on staff pensions in each of the next five years. [54567]

Damian Green: The Home Office budget does not include expenditure for paying civil service pensions.

The Cabinet Office leads on civil service pensions, which are funded centrally under the Principal Civil Service pension scheme. The Home Office pays a monthly (employers) contribution, which is credited to this scheme.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the rate of change of her Department's budget in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [57162]

Damian Green: The Home Office has received representations from a range of stakeholders on the implications of the spending review settlement. These have tended to focus on particular areas of spend rather than the rate of change of the whole departmental budget.

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms her Department has put in place to monitor its spending; and what estimate she has made of the cost of these mechanisms. [57234]

Damian Green: The Home Office arrangements for financial management and reporting seek to ensure adherence to the statutory and regulatory frameworks for the management of Home Office funds agreed by Treasury and approved by Parliament.

The Home Office Board allocates resources, manages finances and assets in line with the corporate strategy, and provides challenge to business activity against strategic priorities.

Supporting the board in this role, the Home Office finance function operates a formal cycle of in-year—monthly, quarterly and mid year—reviews of our expenditure, with monthly reporting to the board and to Treasury on outturn and forecasts. A formal process of business performance reviews is also operated through the Permanent Secretary's Operating Reviews, in areas of major spend additional approval and scrutiny arrangements are exercised. These cover major investment and procurement decisions, controls over work force budgets, and approval of grant streams.

Home Office financial results are reported to Parliament annually in the Home Office Annual Resource Accounts. These arrangements are subject to independent review by our internal audit function and by the National Audit Office (NAO).

The most recent improvements put in place to monitor Home departmental spending, following NAO review, can be found in the Statement of Internal Control in the published Home Office Resource Accounts. The Resource Accounts for 2009-10 were published in July 2010, and those for 2010-11 are still being prepared and are due to be published in July 2011:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc1011/hc01/0193/0193.pdf

The monitoring of expenditure is not only the responsibility of the Home Office finance function but of every member of staff with delegated budgetary responsibility. As such there has been no official estimate of the cost of all mechanisms to monitor spend, and to do so could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Research

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of reports produced by her Department's Research, Development and Statistics Directorate in each year since 2008 have been published; and what the title is of each unpublished report. [53393]

Damian Green: The Home Office seeks to publish research and statistics reports when they are complete, in line with the Government's commitments to transparency in Government. National Statistics are produced and released in accordance with our obligations in the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007 and the associated Code of Practice for Official Statistics under the management of a Chief Statistician who reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional matters. Social research reports are published in line with the Government Social Research Unit publication protocol except:

(i) in the case where the Home Office Chief Scientific Advisor decides not to publish in a Home Office series on the grounds of inadequate scientific quality following peer review, or

(ii) on public interest grounds for example security concerns, where an unclassified summary document may be published with a classified version available where it is appropriate to do so, or

(iii) for operational reasons where, in some cases, the Department may decide to publish only a summary of research and allow the more detailed research to be made available separately by, for instance allowing the contractors to publish.

The number and percentage of completed research and statistics reports available on the research and statistics pages of the Home Office website (formerly Research, Development and Statistics pages) are shown in the following table.

Number of completed reports published on the research and statistics pages of the Home Office website (formerly Research, Development and Statistics)

	Number of research and statistics reports published	*Percentage of reports published of total completed reports*
2008	31	89
2009	40	95
2010	62	97
2011 (to date as at 26 May 2011)	27	—

Note:
This excludes Country of Origin reports that were included on the research and statistics pages on the website from 2008 to 2010. There were 78 such reports in 2008, 58 in 2009 and 45 in 2010.

For the period 2008 to 2010, the following nine research reports were produced but not published by the Home Office. The list does not include some other reports produced in 2009 and 2010, for reasons of national security.

2008

(i) Independent Domestic Violence Advisors: A Process Evaluation (The report available on the Cardiff University website)

(ii) Exploring the service and support needs of male, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgendered and black and other minority ethnic victims of domestic and sexual violence (subject to final clearance, this report is to be published by University of Bristol)

(iii) Organised crime: revenues, economic and social costs, and criminal assets available for seizure (This has been released under the Freedom of Information Act)

(iv) Modelling High Impact but Low Probability Events

2009

(v) Visa Decision Research, including Survey of Entry Clearance Officers and Managers and case-file analysis

(vi) Quantifying Domestic Violence: A Review of Police Recording Processes across Wales

2010

(vii) Evaluation for the West Midlands Partnership Peer Support Programme

(viii) Evidence review of Organised Crime

2011

(ix) DNA retention policy: results of analysis relating to the protections of the 'Scottish model'

In addition to these the following 12 reports have been completed but the publications arrangements have not yet been finalised at the time of the question:

(i) Khat—social harms and legislation: a literature review

(ii) The factors involved in the movement away from violent extremism and promising practices from youth gangs and religious cults

(iii) Understanding vulnerability and resilience in individuals to the influence of violent extremism

(iv) Al-Qaeda influenced radicalisation—an approach using Situational Action Theory

(v) Teaching methods that help build resilience to violent extremism

(vi) Deaf Integration Project by Royal Association for the Deaf: Process and impact assessment

(vii) An Evaluation of the Trans-national Resettlement Project: UK and Ireland

(viii) Evaluation of phase 1 of the Alcohol Arrest Referral pilots (to be finalised once the evaluation of the phase two pilots also complete)

(ix) The role of the third sector: a research mapping exercise

(x) An evidence assessment of the literature on the routes of human trafficking in the UK

(xi) Marriage related migration to the UK

(xii) Crime costs of a quality-adjusted life year

Deportation: Asylum

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* failed asylum seekers and *(b)* foreign national prisoners have sought to challenge a deportation decision under the provisions of the European convention on human rights since 1998. [54545]

Damian Green: The information is as follows:

(a) In relation to failed asylum seekers, deportation has been taken to mean removals, as deportations are a specific subset of removals which are enforced either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged that a person's removal from the United Kingdom is conducive to the public good. Information regarding challenges to the removal of failed asylum seekers would require a case by case search of individual records and is not held centrally.

(b) Information regarding challenges to the deportation of foreign national prisoners would also require a case by case search of individual records and assessment of grounds for appeal. This information is not held centrally by the UK Border Agency.

Rule 39 of the European convention on human rights permits an application for interim relief from someone who domestically has exhausted their appeal rights. According to internal management information, approximately 180 foreign national prisoners liable for deportation applied rule 39 to their deportation decision between the period January 2008 to December 2010. However, rule 39 does not become a barrier to deportation until the European Court issue a rule 39 indication.

Please note these figures are based on internal management information and should be treated as provisional and subject to change. They have not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and may not agree with published figures. Data before 2008 is not available.

Deportation: Zimbabwe

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the UK Border Agency has appealed rulings by an immigration court in respect of individuals facing removal to Zimbabwe in each of the last two years. [57879]

Damian Green: The number of appeals submitted by the UK Border Agency against rulings made by an immigration court in respect of individuals facing removal to Zimbabwe was 2,639 for financial year 2009-10, and 1,630 for financial year 2010-11.

Figures include cases where the UK Border Agency has sought permission to appeal a decision made at an immigration tribunal. Data are based on the date permission to appeal was sought.

Figures include both asylum, temporary and permanent migration case.

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Entry Clearances: Jordan

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the UK Border Agency is taking to deal with outstanding visa cases from Jordan. [56629]

Damian Green: From January to April this year, the Amman visa section has seen a significant increase in applications compared to the same period last year. In addition, unforeseen staff shortages and visa process improvements to the section, following the chief inspector's review of the Amman operation in October 2010, have placed further pressure on staff resources. These have resulted in Amman not meeting published customer service standards. The UK Border Agency has provided additional staff in Amman to deal with legacy cases and put in place process improvements. The UK Border Agency is committed to providing an efficient visa service to all its customers, and anticipates that the Amman visa section will meet its customer service standards by the end of July.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the contribution to the UK economy arising from the issuing of Tier 4 student visas. [57050]

Damian Green: Changes to the student visa route were announced on 22 March. An Impact Assessment has been prepared and will be published shortly.

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many colleges or schools in the UK *(a)* holding and *(b)* not holding the Highly Trusted Sponsor rating for Tier 4 student visas were recorded as having allowed a violation of the terms of Tier 4 visas in each of the last three years. [57051]

Damian Green: The information required is not centrally recorded in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. All Tier 4 sponsors are regularly visited to monitor their compliance with their Tier 4 sponsor obligations. Those sponsors found to have violated their obligations may be downgraded to a B rating with an action plan or have their licence suspended which may also lead to revocation.

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the effects of the implementation of requirements for students to meet level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages on the number of prospective students with university offers who may have such offers withdrawn. [58062]

Damian Green: Changes to the student route were announced on 22 March following a public consultation. Amendments to the Immigration Rules were laid on 31 March, coming into force on 21 April. These amendments introduced some changes to the requirements in English language proficiency needed to obtain a student visa.

The new rules do not apply to Certificates of Acceptance of Studies issued before 21 April. The new rules contain a number of important flexibilities for students at universities, and should not prevent genuine students from taking up their offers.

Firearms: Licensing

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to even the balance of renewals of firearm and shotgun certificates which occur over a five year period. [57293]

Nick Herbert: The Government will be responding shortly to the report of the Home Affairs Select Committee on Firearms Control which contains a recommendation on steps which might be taken to balance out the peaks and troughs of the renewal process.

Firearms: Young Offenders

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people under the age of 18 years were reported to the police for alleged illegal use of airguns in each constituent part of the UK in each of the last five years. [57727]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not collected centrally. The age of persons reported to the police in England and Wales for alleged illegal use of firearms cannot be identified from the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office. The collection of police recorded data for Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for the devolved Administrations.

Forensic Science Service

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the potential effect of the proposed closure of the Forensic Science Service on the quality and impartiality of forensic science used in the criminal justice system. [58135]

James Brokenshire: The Association of Chief Police Officers has been clear that the forensics market can cope with the managed wind-down of the Forensic Science Service (FSS). Private companies already provide approximately 35% of forensics services to the Criminal Justice System. The market is overseen by an independent Forensic Science Regulator to ensure services are impartial and quality standards are maintained.

The evidential value and integrity of forensic exhibits is tested under the intense scrutiny of the courts from the point of collection, through analysis and to interpretation and reporting. Each step in the process must be able to withstand these critical reviews. Forensic science laboratories across the UK work to demanding quality standards and are accredited against BS/EN ISO 17025 (general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories) by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service. This is the core standard adopted by the Forensic Science Regulator for forensic science laboratory functions and is a requirement of police contracts with private laboratories. The Regulator has made it clear that the standards must apply regardless of where and by whom the capture, analysis and interpretation of science evidence takes place.

Frontex

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Frontex activities the UK has supported in each of the last five years; and what these activities consisted of. [57507]

Damian Green: In 2010, the UK supported 30 Frontex activities alongside other EU states. In 2009, the UK supported 21 Frontex activities alongside other EU states. In 2008, the UK supported 28 Frontex activities alongside other EU states. In 2007, the UK supported 27 Frontex activities alongside other EU states. In 2006, the UK supported 22 Frontex activities alongside other EU states.

The supporting information for these activities are provided in the Library of the House.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Frontex activities the UK supports; and what these activities consist of. [57508]

Damian Green: In 2011, the UK has committed to support 26 Frontex activities alongside other EU states. In detail, these comprise of:

Joint operations

Poseidon Land, which targets illegal migration on the land borders from Turkey to Greece.

Neptune, which targets illegal migration on the land borders from the Western Balkans to Slovenia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Greece.

Air border operations Hammer, Hubble, Mizar and Meteor. These form part of the Pulsar Programme, which aims to disrupt illegal migration from third country hubs into the EU.

Poseidon Sea, which targets irregular migration by sea from Turkey to Greece.

Pilot Projects

Argonaut, to update the handbook for the "Management of massive transit of passengers at the EU external borders" in view of European Football Championships cup and the Olympics in 2012.

Protection, to agree a best practice guide for EU border guards dealing with minors, asylum seekers and witness protection.

Vega, to compile a handbook on best practices for the detection and interception of facilitators using airports for human smuggling and trafficking.

Big Dipper, to explore the possibility of EU airline liaison officer activities in a selected third country hub (following amendments to the Frontex regulation going through EU co-decision procedure).

Attica, to increase the Greek authorities capabilities to return third country nationals with no right of stay in the EU.

Joint return activities to third countries

Take the lead on up to two joint return operations to third countries.

Participate in up to six joint return operations to third countries.

Participate in core country group meetings.

Frontex Risk Analysis Unit

Quarterly Frontex risk analysis network meetings.

Bi-annual tactical meetings.

Tailored risk analysis projects.

Analytical training.

Provide bi-monthly intelligence reports and statistics.

Training

Maintain a Partnership Academy at Gatwick, hosting Frontex training activities.

Support false document expert groups and workshops.

Develop Frontex common core curriculum training.

Develop Frontex high and mid-level curriculum training.

Provide human rights and English terminology training.

Develop human trafficking training.

Research and development

Participate in the implementation of the border checks programme.

Participate in the development of the European Surveillance System (Eurosur).

Develop a report on Advance Passenger Information for the European Commission to inform the review of the API directive.

Participation in Frontex management board meetings

Maintaining a seconded national expert at Frontex headquarters in Warsaw, as special adviser to the executive director on external relations.

Attending European Patrol Network meetings.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent estimate has been made of the number of people who remain in the UK for *(a)* one to five and *(b)* more than five years beyond the length of stay permitted by their visa; [57565]

(2) what recent estimate has been made of the number of asylum seekers who remain in the UK *(a)* between one and five and *(b)* more than five years after having had their application turned down; and how many such asylum seekers appealed (i) once and (ii) twice and were unsuccessful. [57566]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is not able to provide the information requested. It is not possible to accurately quantify the number of individuals currently in the UK in breach of immigration controls, as some deliberately evade immigration control in order to remain in the country illegally.

The e-Borders system enables checks to be made on individuals arriving or exiting the country at a majority of the points of entry to the UK but is not yet fully rolled out. e-Borders is currently tracking around 55% of inbound and 60% of outbound passenger movements to and from the UK. This equates to approximately 126 million passengers a year on over 2,800 routes, and includes over 90% of non-EU aviation passengers. The Government are committed to ensuring that the number of UK ports undertaking exit checks is increased to ensure a more complete travel history is recorded on passengers: This will enable provision of the information requested to be developed as e-Borders is progressively rolled out.

Immigration: UK Border Agency

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what dates she expects the UK Border Agency to complete its work on immigration legacy cases. [55491]

Damian Green: The "legacy" case load dates back to July 2006. The UK Border Agency has completed its review of all the outstanding "legacy" cases. A small unit has been set up to continue concluding those cases that have been reviewed but not concluded. They will also monitor the controlled archive and take forward any cases that come to light.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Torbay of 3 September 2010 on consultation on the change in indexation of public service pensions. [51180]

Nick Herbert: I wrote to my hon. Friend on 24 May 2011.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 12 April 2011 with regard to Miss K Nwozuzu. [57385]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member in respect of Miss K Nwozuzu on 16 May.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 21 March 2011 with regard to Mrs L Kirkwood. [57386]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 12 April 2011.

Migration

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the economic effects of migration over the last 15 years. [56674]

Damian Green *[holding answer 23 May 2011]*: I have recently commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee to research the labour market, social and public service impacts of non-EEA migration; to advise on the use of such evidence in cost-benefit analyses of migration policy decisions and to report in November 2011.

Police

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which local authority areas fall within the boundaries of each police authority area. [57425]

Nick Herbert: The following table sets out which local authority areas fall within each police authority.

Force	*Top Tier*	*Lower Tier*	*Council type*
Avon and Somerset	Bristol		Unitary
	Somerset		County
		Mendip	District
		Sedgemoor	District
		South Gloucestershire	District
		South Somerset	District
		Tauton Deane	District
		West Somerset	District
	South Gloucestershire		Unitary
	Bath and North East Somerset		Unitary
	North Somerset		Unitary
Bedfordshire	Luton		Unitary
	Bedford		Unitary
	Central Bedfordshire		Unitary
Cambridgeshire	Cambridgeshire		County
		Cambridge	District
		East Cambridgeshire	District
		Fenland	District
		Huntingdonshire	District
		South Cambridgeshire	District
	Peterborough		Unitary
Cheshire	Cheshire West and Chester		Unitary
	Cheshire East		Unitary
	Halton		Unitary
	Warrington		Unitary
Cleveland	Redcar and Cleveland		Unitary
	Hartlepool		Unitary
	Middlesbrough		Unitary
	Stockton		Unitary
Cumbria	Cumbria		County

Force	Top Tier	Lower Tier	Council type
		Allendale	District
		Barrow in Furness	District
		Carlisle	District
		Copeland	District
		Eden	District
		South Lakeland	District
Derbyshire	Derbyshire		County
		Amber Valley	District
		Bolsover	District
		Chesterfield	District
		Derbyshire Dales	District
		Erewash	District
		High Peak	District
		North East Derbyshire	District
		South Derbyshire	District
	Derby		Unitary
Devon and Cornwall	Devon		County
		East Devon	District
		Exeter	District
		Mid Devon	District
		North Devon	District
		South Hams	District
		Teignbridge	District
		Torridge	District
		West Devon	District
	Cornwall		Unitary
	Torbay		Unitary
	Scilly		Sui Generis
	Plymouth		Unitary
Dorset	Dorset		County
		Christchurch	District
		East Dorset	District
		North Dorset	District
		Purbeck	District
		West Dorset	District
		Weymouth and Portland	District
	Poole		Unitary
	Bournemouth		Unitary
Durham	Darlington		Unitary
	Co Durham		Unitary
Dyfed-Powys	Carmarthenshire		Welsh
	Ceredigion		Welsh
	Pembrokeshire		Welsh
	Powys		Welsh
Essex	Essex		County
		Basildon	District
		Braintree	District
		Brentwood	District
		Castle Point	District
		Chelmsford	District
		Colchester	District
		Epping Forest	District
		Harlow	District
		Maldon	District
		Rochford	District
		Tendring	District
		Uttlesford	District
	Southend		Unitary
	Thurrock		Unitary
Gloucestershire	Gloucestershire		County
		Cheltenham	District
		Colswold	District
		Forest of Dean	District
		Gloucester	District
		Stroud	District
		Tewkesbury	District
Greater Manchester	Bolton		Metropolitan
	Rochdale		Metropolitan
	Wigan		Metropolitan
	Trafford		Metropolitan
	Stafford		Metropolitan
	Stockport		Metropolitan
	Oldham		Metropolitan
	Bury		Metropolitan
	Tameside		Metropolitan
	Manchester		Metropolitan
Gwent	Newport		Welsh
	Caerphilly		Welsh
	Gwent		Welsh
	Torfaen		Welsh
	Monmouthshire		Welsh
Hampshire	Hampshire		County
		Basingstoke and Deane	District
		East Hampshire	District
		Eastleigh	District
		Fareham	District
		Gosport	District
		Hart	District
		Havant	District
		New Forest	District
		Rushmoor	District
		Test Valley	District
		Winchester	District
	Portsmouth		Unitary
	Southampton		Unitary
	Isle of Wight		Unitary
Hertfordshire	Hertfordshire		County
		Broxbourne	District
		Dacorum	District
		East Hertfordshire	District
		Hertsmere	District
		North Hertfordshire	District

Force	*Top Tier*	*Lower Tier*	*Council type*
		St Albans	District
		Stevenage	District
		Three Rivers	District
		Watford	District
		Welwyn and Hatfield	District
Humberside	Hull		Unitary
	East Yorkshire		Unitary
	North Lincolnshire		Unitary
	North East Lincolnshire		Unitary
Kent	Medway		Unitary
	Kent		County
		Ashford	District
		Canterbury	District
		Dartford and Gravesham	District
		Dover	District
		Maidstone	District
		Medway	District
		Sevenoaks	District
		Shepway	District
		Swale	District
		Thanet	District
		Tonbridge and Mailing	District
		Tunbridge Wells	District
Lancashire	Lancashire		County
		Burnley	District
		Chorley	District
		Fylde	District
		Hyndeburn	District
		Lancaster	District
		Pendle	District
		Preston	District
		Ribble valley	District
		Rossendale	District
		South Ribble	District
		West Lancashire	District
		Wyre	District
	Blackpool		Unitary
	Blackburn		Unitary
Leicestershire	Leicestershire		County
		Blaby	District
		Charnwood	District
		Harborough	District
		Hinckley and Bosworth	District
		Melton	District
		North West Leicestershire	District
		Oadby and Wigston	District
	Leicester		Unitary
	Rutland		Unitary
Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire		County
		Boston	District
		East Lindsey	District
		Lincoln	District
		North Kesteven	District
		South Holland	District
		South Kesteven	District
		West Lindsey	District
Merseyside	Liverpool		Metropolitan
	Sefton		Metropolitan
	Wirral		Metropolitan
	Knowsley		Metropolitan
	St Helens		Metropolitan
Norfolk	Norfolk		bounty
		Breckland	District
		Broadland	District
		Great Yarmouth	District
		Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	District
		North Norfolk	District
		Norwich	District
		South Norfolk	District
North Wales	Gwynedd		Welsh
	Isle of Anglesey		Welsh
	Conwy		Welsh
	Denbighshire		Welsh
	Flintshire		Welsh
	Wrexham		Welsh
North Yorkshire	North Yorkshire		County
		Craven	District
		Hambleton	District
		Harrogate	District
		Richmondshire	District
		Ryedale	District
		Scarborough	District
		Selby	District
	York		Unitary
Northamptonshire	Northamptonshire		County
		Corby	District
		Daventry	District
		East Northamptonshire	District
		Kettering	District
		Northampton	District
		South Northamptonshire	District
		Wellingborough	District
Northumbria	Northumberland		Unitary
	Newcastle		Metropolitan
	N Tyneside		Metropolitan
	S Tyneside		Metropolitan
	Gateshead		Metropolitan
	Sunderland		Metropolitan
Nottinghamshire	Nottinghamshire		County
		Bassetlaw	District
		Mansfield	District

Force	*Top Tier*	*Lower Tier*	*Council type*
		Newark and Sherwood	District
		Ashfield	District
		Broxtowe	District
		Rushcliffe	District
		Gedling	District
	Nottingham		Unitary
South Wales	Bridgend		Welsh
	Cardiff		Welsh
	Merthyr Tydfil		Welsh
	Port Talbot		Welsh
	Rhondda Cynon Taf		Welsh
	Swansea		Welsh
	Glamorgan		Welsh
South Yorkshire	Sheffield		Metropolitan
	Rotherham		Metropolitan
	Don easier		Metropolitan
	Barnsley		Metropolitan
Staffordshire	Staffordshire		County
		Tamworth	District
		Lichfield	District
		Cannock Chase	District
		South Staffordshire	District
		Stafford	District
		Newcastle-under-Lyme	District
		Staffordshire Moorlands	District
		East Staffordshire	District
	Stoke		Unitary
Suffolk	Suffolk		County
		Ipswich	District
		Suffolk Coastal	District
		Waveney	District
		Mid Suffolk	District
		St Edmundsbury	District
		Forest Heath	District
		Babergh	District
Surrey	Surrey		County
		Spelt home	District
		Runnvmede	District
		Surrey Heath	District
		Woking	District
		Elmbridge	District
		Guildford	District
		Waverley	District
		Mole Valley	District
		Epsom and Ewell	District
		Reigate and Banstead	District
		Tandridge	District
Sussex	W Sussex		County
		Arun	District
		Chichester	District
		Worthing	District
		Horsham	District
		Mid Sussex	District
		Adur	District
		Crawley	District
	E Sussex		County
		Rotherham	District
		Hastings	District
		Wealden	District
		Lewes	District
		Eastbourne	District
	Brighton		Unitary
Thames Valley	West Berkshire		UrtHarv
	Wokingham		Unitary
	Slough		Unitary
	Windsor and Maidenhead		Unitary
	Reading		Unitary
	Bracknell Forest		Unitary
	Oxons		County
		Oxford	District
		Vale of White Horse	District
		West Oxfordshire	District
		Cherwell	District
		South Oxfordshire	District
	Buckinghamshire		County
		Aylesbury Vale	District
		South Bucks	District
		Chiltern	District
		Wycombe	District
	Mill on Keynes		Unitary
Warwickshire	Warwickshire		County
		North Warwickshire	District
		Nuneaton and Bedworth	District
		Rugby	District
		Stratford upon Avon	District
		Warwick	District
West Mercia	Shropshire		Unitary
	Telford		Unitary
	Herefordshire		Unitary
	Worcestershire		County
		Worcester	District
		Mavern Hills	District
		Wyre Forest	District
		Bromsgrove	District
		Redditch	District
		Wychavon	District
West Midlands	Wolverhampton		Metropolitan
	Birmingham		Metropolitan
	Walsall		Metropolitan

Force	Top Tier	Lower Tier	Council type
	Sandwell		Metropolitan
	Solihull		Metropolitan
	Coventry		Metropolitan
	Dudley		Metropolitan
West Yorkshire	Leeds		Metropolitan
	Wakefield		Metropolitan
	Kirklees		Metropolitan
	Calderdale		Metropolitan
	Bradford		Metropolitan
Wiltshire	Wiltshire		Unitary
	Swindon		Unitary

Police: Elected Commissioners

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has received a request from *(a)* the Welsh Government and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Wales to meet to discuss the role of elected police commissioners in Wales between 6 May and 20 May 2011. [57469]

Nick Herbert: No, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has not received a request from *(a)* Members of the Welsh Government or *(b)* the Secretary of State for Wales between 6 May and 20 May 2011 to meet to discuss the role of elected police commissioners in Wales.

Police: Complaints

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will bring forward proposals to enable the Independent Police Complaints Commission to consider a broader range of complaints against the police; [57578]

(2) if she will bring forward proposals to ensure greater independent oversight of police handling of complaints. [57577]

Nick Herbert: The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill contains a range of proposals designed to make improvements to the police complaints system. The underlying principles are that complaints should be dealt with at the appropriate level and that the system should focus more on improving the service the public receives rather than simply apportioning blame.

The Chief Officer of the force concerned will be responsible for dealing with low level complaints which are suitable to be dealt with by the local force and which do not amount to an allegation which would justify criminal or disciplinary proceedings. Complainants will have a right of appeal to the Chief Officer if they feel their concerns have not been adequately addressed at the local level. Police and Crime Commissioners will be given a new power to direct Chief Officers to take action where there is failure to deal with a complaint appropriately and the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) will retain its power to 'call in' any case.

The Bill will change the definition of the conduct that can be the subject of a complaint, making it clear that decisions, as well as acts, omissions and statements are included. In cases where a complaint reveals that the performance of a police officer is unsatisfactory, the IPCC will have the power to recommend and direct that unsatisfactory performance proceedings are brought against an officer. This provides the IPCC with the same power as they currently have in respect of misconduct matters.

Police: North Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the effects of reductions in expenditure by local government on the effectiveness of police co-operation with local authorities in North Wales. [57161]

Nick Herbert: Decisions about how local agencies co-operate are the responsibility of community safety partnerships at local level. These partnerships consult with their communities in order to formulate crime reduction plans to address priority issues and make the best use of collective local resources. The effectiveness of agency co-operation can be challenged through the overview and scrutiny arrangements provided by local authority crime and disorder committees.

Police: Surveillance

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to what *(a)* EU and *(b)* international laws undercover police officers are subject when operating outside the UK. [57421]

James Brokenshire: UK police officers operating outside the UK do so with regard to the domestic laws of the country in which they are operating. A request to the overseas authority to deploy an undercover officer is usually brokered through a network of police liaison officers who provide assurance on both the appropriateness of the request and validity of the host nation authority.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish the guidelines issued by her Department for undercover police officers operating outside the UK. [57423]

James Brokenshire: Guidance is contained in Chapter 4 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 statutory code of practice on the use of covert human intelligence sources. A copy is available in the House Library.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Manpower

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees of the Serious Organised Crime Agency are in receipt of a police pension. [57509]

Nick Herbert: As of 24 May 2011, 94 SOCA employees are in receipt of a police pension.

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the Criminal Records Bureau, *(c)* the Identity and Passport Service and *(d)* the UK Border Agency are entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56444]

Damian Green: The 23,939 staff in Home Office headquarters (HOHQ) and the UK Border Agency (UKBA) (*a* and *d*) are supported by one group of trade union officials. The 3,760 staff in the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) *(c)* are supported by a separate group of trade union officials, as again are the 631 staff in the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) *(b)*.

Headquarters and the UKBA

There are seven full-time trade union posts.

Due to the low numbers of people concerned and the risk of breaching data protection it would be inappropriate to specify the number of these staff paid over £25,900.

Additionally, during the year 2010-11 there were 414 members of staff in HOHQ and UKBA who were entitled to request ad-hoc time off for trade union activity following election/appointment to a union role.

The actual cost to the public purse of employing staff with the entitlement to work part-time or full-time in their trade union role in the latest period for which figures are available is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Based on allocations to all union roles within HOHQ and UKBA the cost of facility time in the year 2010-11 equates to approximately 0.2% of the pay bill.

Identity and Passport Service

There are four full-time trade union posts.

Due to the low numbers of people concerned and the risk of breaching data protection it would be inappropriate to specify the number of staff paid over £25,900.

Additionally, during the year 2010-11 there were 67 members of staff in IPS who were entitled to request ad-hoc time off for trade union activity following election/appointment to a union role.

The actual cost to the public purse of employing staff with the entitlement to work part-time or full-time in their trade union role in the latest period for which figures are available is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Based on allocations to all union roles within IPS the cost of facility time in the year 2010-11 equates to approximately 0.2% of the pay bill.

Criminal Records Bureau

There is one full-time union representative and one part-time union representative.

Due to the low numbers of people concerned and the risk of breaching data protection it would be inappropriate to specify the number of staff paid over £25,900.

Additionally, there is a number of staff who work on a facility time basis, as and when required.

The actual cost to the public purse of employing staff with the entitlement to work part-time or full-time in their trade union role in the latest period for which figures are available is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Based on allocations to all union roles within CRB the cost of facility time in the year 2010-11 equates to approximately 0.2% of the pay bill.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future *(a)* level of funding and *(b)* eligibility criteria of the Access to Work programme. [25213]

Maria Miller: The Government will continue to review welfare to work programmes to ensure the support they provide remains appropriate, effective and offers value for money. We are committed to ensuring disabled people are given the right support they need to get a job and remain in employment.

One of our key priorities is to ensure equality in the labour market for those with disability-related barriers to work, Access to Work can help with this. In 2009-10 Access to Work was funded to help 37,300 disabled people to stay in employment and we are on course to help even more in 2010-11.

There are currently no plans to change the eligibility criteria for Access to Work.

In December 2010, I asked Liz Sayce, chief executive of Radar, to lead a review of specialist disability employment programmes, including Access to Work. The review is a practical example of both our absolute determination to get employment support for disabled people right and our ongoing commitment to co-producing the changes we need to achieve this. The recommendations of the review will be published in summer 2011.

Autism

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent assessment is of the extent to which adults with autism are able to access appropriate services provided by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [49576]

Maria Miller: Jobcentre Plus is constantly reviewing ways that it can improve the customer service experience for all, including disabled people and people with Hidden Impairments such as Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) including: Asperger's syndrome.

In February 2010, in response to several requests from disability organisations, Jobcentre Plus established the Hidden Impairment National Group (HING), which is attended by leading medical professionals, disability specific organisations such as the National Autistic Society, Autism Plus, Addept and representatives with Hidden Impairments that are Jobcentre Plus service users. The main aim of the group is to improve the skills and knowledge of Jobcentre Plus staff by developing practical support tools to help them deliver an effective customer service experience at all stages of the individual journey.

Jobcentre Plus provides appropriate and flexible support to ensure customers, regardless of their disabilities, are informed about and can access its services. The majority of Jobcentre Plus customers currently make their claims over the telephone to a contact centre. They are asked a range of questions to identify the most appropriate benefits available to them and the information is recorded electronically, removing the need for a claim form to be completed.

If a call of this type might prove difficult for a customer with autism, they can consent to a representative giving the information on their behalf. Customers can involve third party support at any stage in the process to access services if they think it is necessary.

Increasingly, customers are opting to apply for jobseeker's allowance online via the "Do it online" section of the Directgov website. This provides the flexibility to access Jobcentre Plus services from their own homes, at a pace that suits them and allows them to be assisted in completing the application by an advocate or representative. Customers can also submit an initial application for employment support allowance via the internet claim service.

Should a customer be unable to use either of the options above, clerical forms can be issued or, where appropriate, a face to face interview at the customer's local Jobcentre Plus office organised.

Our work, with national partners such as the Citizen Advice Bureau at a strategic and operational level, offers a holistic and joined up service for disabled people, including those with autism.

Jobcentre Plus staff have the opportunity to learn more about the autism agenda through the 'Raising the Game on Disability' seminar, which covers a range of pan disability topics, but can also specifically include a session around ASD, to improve the customer service experience for individuals.

Care Homes: Disability

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 236-37WH, on disability living allowance, what steps he plans to take to review the responsibilities of care homes to provide mobility for disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [49469]

Maria Miller: We announced when the Welfare Reform Bill was introduced that we no longer intend to remove the mobility component of DLA for people in residential care in October 2012.

DWP officials have been reviewing the available evidence and gathering more to inform a final decision on this policy. We will continue to consider the needs of people living in residential care at the same time as all other DLA recipients as we develop the Personal Independence Payment.

In the course of reviewing this policy, I have visited several care homes and spoken to residents, their families and care home staff about how mobility support works in practice on the ground.

Issues affecting care homes have been considered as part of the Law Commission review and are part of the Dilnot review.

Note:

In England the role of the SCSWIS is fulfilled by the Care Quality Commission and in Wales by the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales. In Northern Ireland, the role is carried out by the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority.

Child Tax Credit

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what savings his Department expects to arise from the abolition of the disability element of child tax credit and its replacement with provision under universal credit in *(a)* 2013-14, *(b)* 2014-15 and *(c)* 2015-16. [53357]

Maria Miller: The disability element of child tax credit is being replaced by additional support for disabled children under universal credit. Any savings will be reinvested in the new structure of additions, which will result in higher levels of support for severely disabled adults and children.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of his Department's employees categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [57604]

Chris Grayling: The Government are committed to transparency and the availability of data and are currently exploring options for the more frequent publication of this type of work force management information across the civil service.

The Department for Work and Pensions will continue to publish its work force management information via the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey, pending the outcome of this review.

Departmental Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of his Department's budget he expects to be spent on staff pensions in each of the next five years. [54571]

Chris Grayling: In the Department's most recent full year accounts, for 2009-10, we reported employer pension contributions of approximately 13% of total staff costs or 5% of the Departmental Expenditure Limit for Resource. This information is available from our resource accounts:

www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/resource-acs-2009-10.pdf

These proportions are unlikely to change much in 2010-11 and 2011-12 but it is difficult to make forecasts beyond that timeframe given the prospective changes to public sector pensions provision, following the recent review by the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission chaired by Lord Hutton.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much each Executive agency of his Department has spent on travel by *(a)* private hire vehicles, *(b)* trains, *(c)* buses, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56069]

Chris Grayling: In line with the Government's austerity agenda, the Department for Work and Pensions has taken vigorous action to enhance business travel policy. Overall this has produced savings in the region of 45%, measured against last year's expenditure. The DWP's business travel policy actively discourages travel, unless the alternatives have been examined and exhausted and where travel is deemed appropriate, encourages the use of the most cost-effective modes of transport. The Department has also implemented a total ban on first-class rail travel.

The reduction in expenditure has varied across the Executive agencies as shown in the following tables.

Jobcentre Plus

	May 2010 to March 2011 (£)	*May 2009 to March 2010 (£)*	*% change*
Taxi	884,453	1,009,866	-12.42
Car Hire	850,800	1,229,736	-30.81
Trains	2,473,716	5,424,431	-54.40
Buses (including coaches)	232,055	356,462	-34.90
Commercial Aircraft	270,440	722,768	-62.58
Private Aircraft	0	0	0.00
Total	4,711,464	8,743,263	-46.11

Pension, Disability and Carers Service

	May 2010 to March 2011 (£)	*May 2009 to March 2010 (£)*	*% change*
Taxi	123,444	231,248	-46.62
Car Hire	269,307	306,202	-12.05
Trains	977,030	2,478,281	-60.58
Buses (including coaches)	73,964	88,301	-16.24
Commercial Aircraft	196,180	538,575	-63.57
Private Aircraft	0	0	0.00
Total	1,639,925	3,642,607	-54.98

Corporate and shared services

	May 2010 to March 2011 (£)	*May 2009 to March 2010 (£)*	*% change*
Taxi	279,037	495,863	-43.73
Car Hire	898,477	1,015,493	-11.52
Trains	4,728,769	9,690,079	-51.20
Buses (including coaches)	32,623	46,338	-29.60
Commercial Aircraft	341,500	809,759	-57.83
Private Aircraft	0	0	0.00
Total	6,280,406	12,057,532	-47.91

The total expenditure set out above needs to be seen in the context of a Department with over 100,000 staff based in over 900 locations throughout Great Britain.

The above expenditure also includes elements of the cost of provision of transport, to meet the Departments' obligations, under the Disability Discrimination Act.

It should be noted that in order for the DWP to provide the full scope of services, in line with its key objectives, a certain degree of business travel is required, for example, trainers will travel to multiple sites; fraud investigation staff will conduct surveillance exercises; Jobcentre Plus and Pension, Disability and Carers Service staff carry out outreach activity outside of the Government estate, all in the course of their duties. The use of official cars and taxis by civil servants, including special advisers, is governed by the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on travel in respect of *(a)* each of his Department's executive agencies and *(b)* the chief executive of each such agency since May 2010. [56183]

Chris Grayling: In line with the Government's austerity agenda, the Department for Work and Pensions has taken vigorous action to enhance business travel policy. Overall this is projected to produce savings in the region of 40%, measured against last year's expenditure. The DWP's business travel policy actively discourages travel, unless the alternatives have been examined and exhausted and where travel is deemed appropriate, encourages the use of the most cost effective modes of transport.

Measuring the expenditure since May 2010, against a comparable period last year illustrates that the expenditure oh travel has fallen significantly by.

Jobcentre Plus

	May 2010 – March 2011 (£)	*May 2009 - March 2010 (£)*	*Percentage change*
All travel	14,737,495	22,946,633	-35.77
Chief executive	3,587	21,776	-83.48

Pension, Disability and Carers Service

	May 2010 – March 2011 (£)	*May 2009 - March 2010 (£)*	*Percentage change*
All travel	5,011,852	7,027,259	-28.68
Chief executive	10,813	21,971	-50.79

The total expenditure set out above needs to be seen in the context of a Department with over 100,000 staff based in over 900 locations throughout Great Britain.

The above expenditure also includes elements of the cost of provision of transport, to meet the Departments' obligations, under the Disability Discrimination Act.

It should be noted that in order for the DWP to provide the full scope of services, in line with its key objectives a certain degree of business travel is required, for example trainers will travel to multiple sites; fraud investigation staff will conduct surveillance exercises; Job Centre Plus staff carry out Outreach activity outside of the Government estate, all in the course of their duties.

DWP has taken steps to review the business travel policy and gain best value for money where travel is unavoidable. For example the introduction of a ban on first class rail travel has resulted in significant savings.

Disability Living Allowance: Barnsley

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in Barnsley East constituency who will be affected by the planned changes to disability living allowance. [58047]

Maria Miller: Support in personal independence payment will be focused on those who face the biggest barriers to independent living. The assessment is being developed and at this stage, therefore, an assessment is not available of the impact changes could have on existing disability living allowance, or future recipients. We are working with disabled people and organisations that represent them on the detailed design and delivery of personal independence payment and the outcomes from this work will be reflected in updates to the impact assessment for this change. We have already announced that personal independence payment will be a non-taxable, non means-tested benefit payable to people in and out of work.

The number of recipients of disability living allowance in the Barnsley East parliamentary constituency who are 16 to 64 years old are provided in the following table.

Recipients of disability living allowance in the Barnsley East parliamentary constituency, age 16 to 64, November 2010

	Number
Age 16 to 64	4,950

Notes:

1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data is for the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example, if they are in hospital.
3. These figures are published at:
http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 100% WPLS.

Disability Premium: Shared Housing

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of single local housing allowance claimants aged between 25 and 34 years who are in receipt of a disability premium are considered unable to move into shared accommodation; [57672]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the Discretionary Housing Payments budget of supporting individuals aged between 25 and 34 who are affected by the extension of the Shared Accommodation Rate and are unable to move into shared accommodation due to a disability in the comprehensive spending review period. [57673]

Steve Webb: As is currently the case for claimants aged under 25, it is not for the Department to set criteria under which claimants in receipt of the disability premium would be considered unable to move in to shared accommodation.

Claimants who receive the severe disability premium will continue to be exempt from the shared accommodation rate, as will those who have an overnight carer, so it remains the case that people with the most severe disabilities will not be expected to move into shared accommodation.

Some claimants who receive a disability premium will become entitled to only the shared accommodation rate for housing benefit from January 2012. In our equality impact assessment published on 9 May, it was estimated that once those who are entitled to the severe disability premium are excluded, 18% of single local housing allowance claimants without dependent children in the 25 to 34 age group receive a disability premium.

Local authorities are best placed to judge whether a claimant's disability or other circumstances mean that shared accommodation is inappropriate, and to make use of discretionary housing payments if necessary. No estimate has been made of the cost to the discretionary housing payment budget.

Employment and Support Allowance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of excluding from the 365 day period of eligibility for contributory employment and support allowance any days occurring before the relevant sections of the Welfare Reform Act 2011 are expected to come into force in each of the next five financial years. [57660]

Chris Grayling: As part of the Welfare Reform Bill we have set out our intention to introduce a time limit of one year for those claiming contributory Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and who are placed in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG). The intention is that introduction of the time limit in April 2012 will have an immediate effect on people who are currently claiming contributory ESA as well as new claims after that date. In total the policy is expected to generate annual benefit savings of around £400 million in 2012-13 rising to £1.1 billion by 2014-15.

If the proposal were to change so that the one year time limit would be calculated from date of implementation for new and existing claims for contributory ESA in the WRAG, this would reduce the expected benefit savings.

The following table shows the expected change in the annual savings, if this change to the policy were made. It shows that all the expected savings in 2012-13 would be eliminated. That is, there would be a cost to the Exchequer of around £420 million in 2012-13. However, there would be no impact on the expected savings from 2013-14 onwards, as subsequent years will remain unchanged since they represent all cases eligible for time limiting, including those that would have become eligible in earlier years.

	2012-13	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*	*2016-17*
Estimated savings from current policy (£ million)	420	780	1,090	1,330	1,380
Change to estimated savings (£ million)	-420	0	0	0	0

	2012-13	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*	*2016-17*
Percentage change from current policy	-100	0	0	0	0
Change in the total numbers affected by time limiting	-200,000	0	0	0	0

Figures are in cash terms, and are for Great Britain. They are rounded to the nearest £10 million or 10,000 claimants.

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employment and support allowance appeals were submitted by people whose *(a)* allowance had been stopped and *(b)* application had been refused in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [57319]

Chris Grayling: The Department holds data covering employment and support allowance (ESA) appeals where the outcome is known and so does not cover appeals that are still ongoing. Detailed information on the reason an ESA appeal was made is not recorded centrally, however it can be inferred that where an appeal outcome is recorded on a claim that was found fit for work at the work capability assessment (WCA), the appeal is against this decision. Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely that there are more appeals that have not yet been heard.

For new ESA claims starting between April 2009 and February 2010 (the latest data available), 235,400 were found fit for work at the initial work capability assessment (WCA). Of these, 80,200 had had an appeal heard against this decision by February 2011.

The Department regularly publishes information on employment and support allowance and the initial work capability assessment. The latest report was published in April 2011 and can be found at the following link. Table 3 covers information on appeals heard.

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc

Note:

All figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Sources:

Data on the outcome of the WCA are sourced from Atos Healthcare, data on appeals are sourced from the Tribunals Service.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of contributory employment and support allowance recipients in the work-related activity group in steady state and without additional time limits would be expected to receive the benefit for less than one year. [57431]

Maria Miller: It is estimated that in steady state, around 25% of all claimants of contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) who are assessed to be in the work related activity group at initial assessment, will leave ESA within one year, so before the proposed time limit is applied. This does not include people who leave ESA before they are assessed using the work capability assessment and are therefore not assigned to the work related activity group or support group.

For those who leave contributory ESA as a result of the time limit, it is estimated that around 60%, or approximately 400,000 people, are expected to be fully or partially compensated by income-related ESA, so will retain entitlement to ESA.

This information is consistent with the modelling underlying the Budget 2011 forecasts. It does not include claims from former incapacity benefit cases as these will all have duration of one year or more from 2015-16 onwards. The modelling is subject to change as more information becomes available on ESA claims with longer durations.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of restoring eligibility to 365 days of contributory employment and support allowance to each claimant leaving the support group in each of the next five financial years. [57656]

Chris Grayling: As part of the Welfare Reform Bill we have set out our intention to introduce a time limit of one year for those claiming contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) and who are placed in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG). This is expected to generate annual benefit savings of £400 million in 2012-13 rising to £1.1 billion by 2014-15.

If the proposal were to change to allow claimants receiving contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) and who move in and out of the Support Group, to start a fresh 365 day period each time they move back to the Work Related Activity Group, this would change the estimated benefit savings.

In this case, the financial effect of the change is difficult to model, partly because there are so few cases that move from the WRAG to the Support Group and back to the WRAG.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of excluding from the 365 day period of eligibility for contributory employment and support allowance any days that the claimant spends in the assessment phase in each of the next five financial years. [57661][1]

Chris Grayling: As part of the Welfare Reform Bill we have set out our intention to introduce a time limit of one year for those claiming contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) and who are placed in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG). The intention is that time spent in the assessment phase will count towards the 365 day period of the time limit. In total the policy is expected to generate annual benefit savings of £400 million in 2012-13 rising to £1.1 billion by 2014-15.

If the proposal were to change so that the time limit period is extended by the length of time it takes for each person to undergo a work capability assessment to determine entitlement to ESA, this would reduce the expected benefit savings.

The following table shows the expected change in the annual savings if the time spent in the assessment phase were excluded from the, period of the time limit. It shows estimated overall costs to the Exchequer of around £200 million by 2014-15.

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[1] *[Official Report, 21 June 2011, Vol. 530, c. 2MC.]*

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Estimated savings from current policy (£ million)	420	780	1,090	1,330	1,380
Change to estimated savings (£ million)	-150	-20	-20	-20	-10
% change from current policy	-36	-2	-1	-1	-1
Change in the total numbers affected by time limiting	-80,000	-10,000	-10,000	-10,000	-10,000

Note:
Figures are in cash terms, and are for Great Britain. They are rounded to the nearest £10 million or 10,000 claimants.

Employment and Support Allowance: Winchester

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* claimants received both contributory and income-related employment and support allowance, *(b)* applicants were refused employment and support allowance following assessment and *(c)* employment and support appeals were lodged by applicants in Winchester constituency in each quarter in the last three years. [57315]

Chris Grayling: The number of people receiving both contributory and income-related employment and support allowance (ESA) in the Winchester constituency is provided in Table 1. This information can be found using the "Tabulation Tool" on the departmental website at:

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

Note that ESA was introduced in October 2008, so quarterly data are available from November 2008 onwards.

Table 1: Caseload receiving both contributory and income related ESA in Winchester constituency

Quarter	*Caseload*
2010	
November	30
August	20
May	20
February	30
2009	
November	30
August	30
May	20
February	20
2008	
November	0

Table 2 presents data on the number of ESA claims (of all payment types) in the Winchester local authority area found fit for work at the initial work capability assessment (WCA) whose claims started in the periods shown. Information is not available for parliamentary constituencies so data are presented for the Winchester local authority area. Data on new claims for ESA are available for claims starting up to August 2010.

The table also presents data on the number of appeals that have been heard by the Tribunals Service as at February 2011. Data on appeals are available for claims starting up to February 2010. Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely that there are more appeals that have not yet been heard.

Table 2: Numbers of claims starting in the period shown found fit for work where an appeal has been heard by the Tribunals Service for the Winchester local authority area

Quarter	*Fit for work*	*Appeals*
2010		
August	40	—
May	50	—
February	30	0
2009		
November	40	20
August	40	20
May	40	20
February	40	20
2008		
November	10	10

The Department regularly publishes information on employment and support allowance and the initial work capability assessment. The latest report was published in April 2011 and can be found at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc

Caseload data are taken from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. Data on the outcome of the WCA are sourced from departmental administrative data and Atos Healthcare. Data on appeals are sourced from the Tribunals Service. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Employment: Young People

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment his Department has made of the cost-effectiveness of the Community Task Force element of the Young Person's Guarantee. [57258]

Chris Grayling: No assessment of the cost-effectiveness of the Community Task Force element of the Young Person's Guarantee has yet been made.

The Department is planning to assess the feasibility of conducting an impact assessment of the Community Task Force later this year.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average duration of an incapacity benefit claim was in each year since 1997. [53388]

Maria Miller: Most recent figures show that more than 2 million people are in receipt of incapacity benefit (IB) and more than 1.4 million people have been in receipt of IB for over five years.

Since October 2008 incapacity benefit has been replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) for all new claimants. We are currently reassessing existing IB recipients for ESA—full roll-out of national reassessment began on 4 April 2011.

Table 1: Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants by duration of current claim: Great Britain and abroad, August 1997 to August 2010

		Duration of current claim						
As at August:	*All cases*	*Up to three months*	*Three months up to six months*	*Six months up to one year*	*One year and up to two years*	*Two years and up to five years*	*Five years and over*	*Unknown duration*
1997	2,838,700	184,900	157,500	233,800	348,800	n/a	n/a	1,913,700
1998	2,769,000	156,800	128,800	206,600	357,500	n/a	n/a	1,919,300
1999	2,732,500	165,600	140,060	206,140	309,600	n/a	n/a	1,911,100
2000	2,756,510	168,080	134,640	195,830	315,720	735,590	1,206,650	*
2001	2,805,450	156,030	134,680	204,300	301,440	717,200	1,291,810	*
2002	2,811,430	154,360	147,720	186,790	291,270	655,930	1,375,360	*
2003	2,819,050	152,610	125,490	184,510	296,980	638,300	1,421,150	*
2004	2,817,010	147,070	123,370	179,760	276,150	630,330	1,460,330	*
2005	2,767,740	136,210	113,260	163,460	260,060	612,010	1,482,740	*
2006	2,724,980	133,250	107,550	155,570	243,260	582,710	1,502,640	*
2007	2,683,160	139,570	113,100	162,840	231,010	532,010	1,504,630	*
2008	2,632,000	140,980	107,710	156,280	238,080	497,440	1,491,500	*
2009	2,299,580	9,590	11,190	65,470	241,860	490,920	1,480,540	*
2010	2,082,570	5,950	6,280	12,980	65,760	508,240	1,483,360	*

Table 2: Employment and support allowance claimants by duration of current claim: Great Britain and abroad, August 2009 and August 2010

		Duration of current claim						
As at August:	*All cases*	*Up to three months*	*Three months up to six months*	*Six months up to one year*	*One year and up to two years*	*Two years and up to five years*	*Five years and over*	*Unknown duration*
2009	374,440	151,320	119,920	103,200	n/a	n/a	n/a	*
2010	563,980	151,400	112,060	146,290	154,230	n/a	n/a	*

n/a = Not applicable or not available.
* = Nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. Incapacity benefit was introduced in April 1995. The start dates of claims transferred from invalidity benefit are not reliable, therefore breakdowns of longer durations are not available until August 2000.
2. Figures from 5% samples have been uprated using 100% WPLS totals.
3. Figures from 5% samples have been rounded to the nearest 100 and 100% figures to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure has been applied.
4. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
5. From 6 April 2001, no new claims to severe disablement allowance were accepted. In addition, incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance (ESA) for new claims from 27 October 2008.
6. Data is available on the Department's tabulation tool at:
http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

Source:

100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) (from August 1999)
DWP Information Directorate 5% samples (before August 1999)

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applicants for incapacity benefit withdrew their application before a final decision had been made in the five years prior to the introduction of the employment and support allowance. [56688]

Maria Miller: This information requested is not available for incapacity benefit claimants prior to the introduction of employment and support allowance (ESA).

The data systems the Department uses to monitor and publish information on the work capability assessment for ESA claims were not in place until the latter half of 2008, just before ESA was introduced in October 2008. We cannot produce equivalent information on the number of incapacity benefit claims which ceased before assessment was complete in the five years prior to the introduction of ESA.

Incapacity Benefit: Medical Examinations

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of incapacity benefit reassessments were conducted by home visit in each assessment centre area in the latest period for which figures are available. [57046]

Chris Grayling: Between 15 March 2011 and 19 May 2011 incapacity benefit reassessments were undertaken by domiciliary visits in the following assessment centre areas:

Of the 617 exams completed in Scotland, 14 (2.27%) domiciliary visits were made.

Of the 556 exams completed in Manchester, 10 (1.77%) domiciliary visits were made.

Of the 28 exams completed in Wales, one (3.57%) domiciliary visit has been made.

No domiciliary visits were undertaken for incapacity benefit reassessment in any other area of the country.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the criteria for the conduct of incapacity benefit reassessment home visits. [57047]

Chris Grayling: I believe that this question is seeking details of the criteria used to determine whether an incapacity benefit reassessment home visit is appropriate. This answer is based on that assumption.

Prior to a medical appointment, ATOS Healthcare undertake a "pre-board" assessment of the customer questionnaire (ESA50). This will determine, in the first instance whether or not the customer should be assessed by a Health Care Professional (HCP). Where an assessment is necessary, the HCP will consider, based on the ESA50, whether the customer should attend a medical assessment or whether a home visit is appropriate.

In making this determination the HCP will use their professional judgment to consider the customer's medical condition and other further medical evidence available to them. This can result in one of the following courses of action:

home visit is agreed;

HCP requests further information from the customer's GP to inform the decision; or

home visit is declined and an appointment is made for the customer to attend a medical assessment.

In the event of a home visit being declined the customer may contact the ATOS Healthcare Virtual Contact Centre to ask that this be reconsidered. ATOS Healthcare will inform the customer that they should provide evidence from their GP to substantiate their case for a home visit. This further evidence is assessed by the ATOS Healthcare HCP and if appropriate a home visit is arranged.

Incapacity Benefit: Oxford West and Abingdon

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Oxford West and Abingdon constituency have been in receipt of incapacity benefits for more than *(a)* six months, *(b)* 12 months, *(c)* 18 months, *(d)* two years, *(e)* three years and *(f)* five years. [47957]

Maria Miller: The information requested is as follows:

Incapacity benefit (IB)/severe disablement allowance (SDA) and employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants in Oxford West and Abingdon parliamentary constituency by duration on benefit—August 2010

	IB/SDA	*ESA*
Total	1,570	480
Up to 6 months	10	230
Over 6 months to 12 months	10	140
Over 12 months to 18 months	10	80
Over 18 months to 2 years	40	40
Over 2 years to 3 years	200	n/a
Over 3 years to 5 years	270	n/a
Over 5 years	1,040	n/a

n/a = not applicable

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament 2010.
4. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Incapacity Benefit: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals in Peterborough city council area were claiming incapacity benefit as a result of being diagnosed with a mental health condition in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [57414]

Maria Miller: The information requested is as follows:

Number of incapacity benefit (IB)/severe disablement allowance (SDA) and employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants in Peterborough local authority: November 2001 to November 2010

	IB/SDA		*ESA*	
Date	*Total claimants*	*Claimants with mental and behavioural disorders*	*Total claimants*	*Claimants with mental and behavioural disorders*
November 2001	6,650	2,110	n/a	n/a
November 2002	6,800	2,210	n/a	n/a
November 2003	6,810	2,280	n/a	n/a
November 2004	7,020	2,420	n/a	n/a
November 2005	6,990	2,460	n/a	n/a
November 2006	7,030	2,570	n/a	n/a
November 2007	7,320	2,780	n/a	n/a
November 2008	7,370	2,840	160	n/a
November 2009	6,500	2,580	1,460	n/a
November 2010	5,960	2,380	2,110	730

n/a = not available

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10/
2. To qualify for incapacity benefit (IB), claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called a personal capability assessment. Under the employment and support allowance regime, new claimants have to undergo the work capability assessment. From April 2011 incapacity benefit recipients have begun also to undertake this assessment. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming IB or ESA on the basis of mental and behavioural disorders would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the personal/work capability assessment.
3. Data include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.
4. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
5. Data by medical condition for ESA is only available from 2010.
6. Data are published on www.nomisweb.co.uk

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS.

Industrial Health and Safety

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance the Health and Safety Executive issues to employers on temperatures in the workplace above 30 degrees in order to limit the long- and short-term physical and psychological effects of such temperatures on workers. [58165]

Chris Grayling: Guidance on the HSE website covers situations of high temperature where heat stress may occur. The guidance does not specify a specific temperature at which control measures should be put into place.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people with illnesses *(a)* caused or *(b)* exacerbated by exposure to high temperatures in the course of their employment. [57939]

Chris Grayling: There is insufficient evidence to allow a reliable estimate to be made. HSE carried out a survey into high workplace temperatures in 2009, to which 2,933 responses were submitted. This offered no evidence of significant numbers of illnesses caused or exacerbated by exposure to high temperatures in the course of their employment. At the time of this survey, HSE contacted the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council, as they monitor scientific reports and publications about occupational diseases. They reported that no research or evidence on the effect of heat at work on certain occupations has been brought to their attention.

Industrial Health and Safety: Scotland

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the effects of reductions in the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) budget on the number of HSE inspectors working in Scotland over the comprehensive spending review period. [58058]

Chris Grayling: At 1 April 2011, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) had 173[1] full-time equivalent (FTE) inspectors based in Scotland, who work either for all or part of their time in Scotland or its offshore waters. By 31 March 2012, the number is forecast to be 183[1] FTE inspectors, subject to the outcome of approved recruitment and natural turnover. The net increase reflects the planned increase in inspectors regulating offshore oil and gas.

The HSE also has other specialist inspectors who, although based elsewhere in Great Britain, work across national boundaries, including in Scotland. Their effort is not usually planned or accounted for on a nation-by-nation basis and they are not included in the numbers above.

My statement of 21 March 2011, "Good Health and Safety, Good for Everyone" announced a number of changes to the health and safety system in Great Britain. HSE is still undertaking the necessary planning and work to implement these changes and projections of staff numbers beyond 2012-13 are not available at present.

[1] The figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Means-Tested Benefits: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in each electoral ward of the Peterborough City Council area lived in households in receipt of means-tested benefits in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [57413]

Maria Miller: There were 8,620 children aged 15 and under in Peterborough at May 2010 who were living in households where a parent or guardian was claiming income support, jobseeker's allowance, income-based employment and support allowance or pension credit. The breakdown by electoral ward of the Peterborough city council area is in the table.

Ward name	*Total children aged 15 and under*
Barnack	30
Bretton North	650
Bretton South	225
Central	615
Dogsthorpe	715
East	765
Eye and Thorney	150
Fletton	415
Glinton and Wittering	75
Newborough	65
North	380
Northborough	30
Orton Longueville	875
Orton Waterville	295
Orton with Hampton	650
Park	385
Paston	640
Ravensthorpe	575
Stanground Central	325
Stanground East	135
Walton	185
Werrington North	225
Werrington South	85
West	130

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data and HMRC Child Benefit administrative data. Total may not sum due to rounding.

Pensioners: Bexleyheath

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of pensioners in Bexleyheath and Crayford who have received *(a)* winter fuel allowance and *(b)* free television licences in the last 12 months. [57158]

Steve Webb: Winter fuel payment information is available in the document winter fuel payment recipients 2009-10 by parliamentary constituencies and gender. This is available in the Commons Library and on the internet at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wfp

The information on free television licences for people aged 75 or over is not held by Government. Department for Culture, Media and Sport have policy responsibility for free TV licences. However I understand that free TV licences are issued by TV Licensing as agents for the BBC. The BBC does not collate information on licence holders aged 75 or over by geographical area.

Child Poverty

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of children were living in poverty in each of the last

30 years; and what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of children likely to be living in poverty in each of the next four years. [56725]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

The latest year of data which are available is 2009-10. The following table shows the number and proportion of children with income below 60% of contemporary median income, before housing costs (BHC) in each of the last 30 years.

Modelled tax and benefit reforms announced since Budget 2010 may have a small reduction in child poverty in 2011-12 and 2012-13; however given the uncertainty around these types of estimates, this change may be on the edge of statistical significance.

Number and proportion of children falling below 60% of contemporary median income, before housing costs (BHC)

Publication	*Period*	*Number of children*	
		Million	*Percentage*
FES (UK)	1979	1.8	13
	1981	2.6	19
	1987	2.8	23
	1988 and 1989	3.1	25
	1990 and 1991	3.4	27
	1991 and 1992	3.5	28
	1992 and 1993	3.8	29
	1993-94 to 1994-95	3.6	28
FRS (GB)	1994-95	3.2	25
	1995-96	3.0	24
	1996-97	3.4	27
	1997-98	3.4	27
FRS (UK)	1998-99	3.4	26
	1999-2000	3.4	26
	2000-01	3.1	23
	2001-02	3.0	23
	2002-03	2.9	23
	2003-04	2.9	22
	2004-05	2.7	21
	2005-06	2.8	22
	2006-07	2.9	22
	2007-08	2.9	23
	2008-09	2.8	22
	2009-10	2.6	20

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS) and Family Expenditure Survey (FES). The FRS and FES uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.
4. Numbers of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
5. These statistics are based on incomes Before Housing Costs.
6. Relative poverty is defined as children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income.
7. FRS figures are for Great Britain up to 1997/98, and for the United Kingdom from 1998-99, with estimates for Northern Ireland imputed for the years 1998/99 through 2001-02. The reference period for FRS figures is single financial years.
8. FES figures are for the United Kingdom. These are single calendar years for 1979, 1981, and 1987; two combined calendar years from 1988 to 1993 and two financial years combined from 1993-94 to 1994-95.
9. These statistics are publicly available in the Households Below Average Income Report on the DWP website:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbai

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

Remploy: Manpower

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what financial assistance he plans to provide for the supported employment Remploy factories in each of the next four financial years; [39548]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of supported employment Remploy factories which will continue to be in operation in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the UK in each of the next four years. [39549]

Maria Miller: There are two Remploy factories in Glasgow located at Clydebank and Springburn, nine in Scotland and 54 in the UK.

The coalition Government confirmed, despite severe fiscal constraints, as part of the spending review that Remploy's operational budget for the five-year modernisation plan from 2008-09 to 2012-13 remains protected at £555 million.

Remploy are operating in challenging economic conditions and are rebalancing the role of the Employment Services arm of their business and factories to ensure they keep within the funding available, This includes a programme of voluntary redundancies to around 30,000 staff in Remploy factories of which around 2,500 are supported employees. Remploy have received over 700 applications from factory staff including over 500 supported employees. Remploy will not accept any redundancies that impact on factory operations and no factory will close as a result of this.

An independent review of the support the Government provide to disabled people who want to work, including the support provided by Remploy, will be published in the summer.

Retirement Age

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the savings to the Exchequer which would result from an increase in the state pension age from 65 to 66 years between April 2020 and April 2021. [57666]

Steve Webb: Increasing the state pension age from 65 to 66 between April 2020 and April 2021 would result in savings of £21.7 billion (in 2020-21 prices) between 2020-21 and 2025-26. This is significantly less than the savings of £30 billion (in 2020-21 prices) between 2016-17 and 2025-26 resulting from the Pensions Bill 2011 timetable.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the savings to the Exchequer which would accrue from implementing the increase in the state pension age to 67 years from 2025. [57668]

Steve Webb: The savings which would accrue from increasing the state pension age gradually to 67 between 2025 and 2027 are £59.3 billion (in 2010-11 prices) between 2025-26 and 2035-36.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will estimate the number of *(a)* women and *(b)* men who would be affected by increasing the state pension age for both men and women from 65 to 66 years between 2020 and 2021 and then increasing it gradually to 67 years by 2025; [57669]

(2) if he will estimate the maximum additional time for a *(a)* man and *(b)* women to wait to receive a state pension in the case where the state pension age for both men and women increased from 65 to 66 years between 2020 and 2021 and then increased gradually to 67 years by 2025; [57670]

(3) if he will estimate the savings which would accrue to the Exchequer from increasing the state pension for both men and women from 65 to 66 years between 2020 and 2021 and then gradually to 67 by 2025. [57667]

Steve Webb: Assuming that the increase to 67 would occur gradually between 2023 and 2025, the number of women and men affected by an increase in the State Pension age from 65 to 66 between 2020 and 2021 and then to 67 by 2025 would be 6.4 million and 6.3 million, respectively.

The maximum delay for both men and women compared to the currently legislated timetable in the case where the state pension age for both men and women increased from 65 to 66 between 2020 and 2021 and then increased over two years to 67 by 2025 would be 23 months.

The savings which would accrue from increasing the state pension age from 65 to 66 between 2020 and 2021 and then gradually to 67 between 2023 and 2025 are £32.2 billion (in 2010-11 prices) between 2020-21 and 2025-26, and £58 billion (in 2010-11 prices) between 2026-27 and 2035-36.

This timetable would result in savings of just 2.2 billion (in 2010-11 prices) between 2016-17 and 2020-21. This is significantly lower than the savings of £10.5 billion (in 2010-11 prices) during the same period resulting from the Pensions Bill 2011 timetable.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of women who will work for longer before reaching pension age in each of the 10 years following the date of implementation of such changes. [58162]

Steve Webb: The information requested is in the following table. This is an expanded version of the table presented in the equality impact assessment which accompanies the Pensions Bill 2011 (page 40 of annex A), which includes years 2017 and 2019.

Impact on numbers in employment, compared to legislated timetable; women aged 55 to 66

	Number increase
2016	109,648
2017	117,274
2018	120,013
2019	122,848
2020	132,115
2021	125,305
2022	113,936
2023	91,992
2024	71,736
2025	48,713
2026	23,932

The modelling assumes the rises in state pension age beyond 66 remain unchanged.

The announcement of an increase in state pension age is assumed to increase the age at which males would exit the labour market from age 55 onwards; for instance, a 66-year-old man would adopt the exit rate from the labour market currently adopted by a 65-year-old. Women's exit rates are assumed to converge to men's exit rates as a result of state pension age equalisation. This modelling was done by DWP using HM Treasury's cohort employment model.

Separation

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much he expects to allocate from the annual budget for information and support through the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to supplement grant funding to relationship support services with respect to family separation in the next four years. [57637]

Maria Miller: As set out in the Government consultation on child maintenance, previous administration have not before had a co-ordinated Government approach to family support. We are working with Department for Education, Ministry of Justice and devolved Administrations to build evidence of what support works for different families. Then we will be able to make sure resources are being used to best effect.

The Department for Education is investing £30 million in relationship support services over the next four years, including their grant funding to voluntary and community sector organisations to support separating couples. We will be working with the Department for Education to ensure the Government approach is as joined up as possible. DWP currently spends around £5.6 million a year on information and support provided through the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

The Government consultation on child maintenance ended on 7 April and we are currently considering the responses received. We plan to publish the Government response to this consultation in July.

Social Fund

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding his Department provided to social fund *(a)* budgeting loans, *(b)* crisis loans and *(c)* community grants in each of the last five years. [43503]

Steve Webb: HM Treasury allocates funding for the Social Fund. Over the past five years the discretionary fund (which comprises budgeting loans, community care grants and crisis loans) has been allocated new annually managed expenditure funding as follows:

HM Treasury allocated money

£ million

	Annually managed expenditure	*Additional annual managed expenditure for loans*	*Total annual managed expenditure for loans*
2010-11	178.2	141.5	319.70
2009-10	178.2	121.9	300.10
2008-09	178.2	40	218.20
2007-08	178.2	50	228.20
2006-07	178.2	120	298.20

Allocation between elements of the discretionary social fund

£ million

	Amount allocated to CCGs	*Amount allocated to Contingency reserve*	*Amount allocated to loans*
2010-11	141	1	177.7
2009-10	141	1	158.1
2008-09	141	1	76.2
2007-08	141	1	86.2
2006-07	141	1	156.2

Note:
Additional money was given in 2010-11 and 2009-10 to accommodate increased applications during the recession. Additional money was given in 2008-09, 2007-08 and 2006-07 to accommodate changes to the scheme in 2006-07. This information is taken from previous Social Fund annual reports. Remaining loans are funded through recoveries of existing loans within each year.

Social Security Benefits

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the cost to the Exchequer of exempting from the total household benefit cap households living in social housing as defined by section 68 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 in each of the next five financial years. [57426]

Chris Grayling: The spending review 2010 announced that from 2013 we will introduce a cap on the total amount of benefit that working-age people can receive so that households on out-of-work benefits will no longer receive more in welfare payments than the average weekly wage for working households. The benefit cap is intended to promote fairness between those in and out of work and to increase incentives for people to move into work or increase their hours of employment.

On its introduction we estimate that household benefit payments will be capped at around £500 per week for couple and lone parent households and around £350 per week for single adult households.

If the benefit cap were applied as described in the spending review the savings to the Exchequer are estimated to be £225 million in 2013-14 and £270 million in 2014-15.

If households in social housing were exempt from the benefit cap, savings would fall to approximately £70 million in 2013-14 and £80 million in 2014-15. Figures for 2015-1[illegible] and beyond are not available.

Analysis of those affected by the benefit cap has been modelled using survey data—as such there is a degree of uncertainty around the results.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the cost to the Exchequer of exempting from the total household benefit cap households where someone is owed a duty to be supported with interim or temporary accommodation under sections 188, 190, 193 or 200 of the Housing Act 1996 in each of the next five financial years. [57427]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

The costing model used to estimate the effects of the benefit cap is based on data from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey (FRS). The FRS does not record information on whether a household is owed a duty to be supported with interim or temporary accommodation under sections 188, 190, 193 or 200 of the Housing Act 1996.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the additional cost to the Exchequer of exempting from the total household benefit cap households where someone has left work due to redundancy or illness or for other reasons relating to the care of a child in each of the next five financial years. [57430]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

The costing model used to estimate the effects of the benefit cap is based on data from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey (FRS). The FRS does not record information on whether an out-of-work member of a household left work due to redundancy or illness or for other reasons relating to the care of a child.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the cost to the Exchequer of exempting from the total household benefit cap households where no member has received a reasonable offer of a job, within the previous *(a)* one year and *(b)* three years in each of the next five financial years. [57432]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

The costing model used to estimate the effects of the benefit cap is based on data from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey (FRS). The FRS does not record information on whether a member of a household has received a reasonable offer of a job within the previous *(a)* one year and *(b)* three years.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate *(a)* the level of the household benefit cap and *(b)* the cost to the Exchequer of setting the cap at the level of estimated earnings plus any in-work benefits that an average earner might expect to receive in each of the next five financial years. [57658]

Chris Grayling: The spending review 2010 announced that from 2013 the Government will introduce a cap on the total amount of benefit that working-age people can receive so that households on out-of-work benefits will no longer receive more in welfare payments than the average weekly wage for working households.

On its introduction we estimate that household benefit payments will be capped at around £500 per week for couple and lone parent households and around £350 per week for single adult households.

If the benefit cap is applied as announced the savings to the Exchequer are estimated to be £225 million in 2013-14 and £270 million in 2014-15.

We estimate that in 2013-14 the average amount of in-work benefit received by working age households at the average earnings level will be approximately £20 per week.

If household benefit payments are capped £20 per week higher than outlined in the spending review 2010, at £520 per week for couple and lone parent households and at £370 per week for single adult households, savings to the Exchequer would fall to £170 million in 2013-14 and £210 million in 2014-15. Figures for 2015-16 and beyond are not available.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of excluding from the amount liable for the total household benefit cap *(a)* housing benefit, *(b)* temporary accommodation costs and *(c)* any amount of universal credit paid in respect of housing costs in each of the next five financial years. [57659]

Chris Grayling: On its introduction we estimate that household benefit payments will be capped at around £500 per week for couple and lone parent households and around £350 per week for single adult households.

If the benefit cap were applied as announced the savings to the Exchequer are estimated to be £225 million in 2013-14, £270 million in 2014-15 and £270 million in 2015-16.

Estimates suggest that excluding *(a)* housing benefit from the benefit cap would reduce savings to less than £20 million in 2013-14 and 2014-15. Figures are not available for 2015-16 and beyond.

Information on *(b)* temporary accommodation is not available. The costing model used to estimate the effects of the benefit cap is based on data from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey (FRS). The FRS does not record information on whether a household is in temporary accommodation.

Note that estimates above are based on the current benefit system including changes announced in the spending review 2010, but excluding universal credit.

Information on section *(c)* is not available as the estimated savings from the benefit cap in universal credit will depend upon final detailed design issues regarding the treatment of in-work households.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the additional cost to the public purse of exempting from the total household benefit cap households that live in supported or sheltered accommodation in each of the next five years. [57903]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

The costing model used to estimate the effects of the benefit cap is based on data from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey (FRS). The FRS does not record information on whether the household lives in supported or sheltered accommodation.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the additional cost to the public purse of exempting from the total household benefit cap households that have been offered accommodation under the prevention and relief of homelessness powers and duties under part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 in each of the next five financial years. [57904]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

The costing model used to estimate the effects of the benefit cap is based on data from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey (FRS). The FRS does not record information on whether a member of a household has been offered accommodation under the prevention and relief of homelessness powers and duties under part 7 of the Housing Act 1996.

Social Security Benefits: Appeals

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit appeals were awaiting referral to the first-tier tribunal on 23 May 2011. [57681]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available in the form requested. While DWP counts the overall numbers of appeals lodged, a number of these appeals will not be referred to the first-tier tribunal. Appeals lodged with the DWP can lapse if the disputed decision is revised in the customer's favour upon reconsideration, or the customer can decide to withdraw their appeal prior to it being referred and in certain circumstances appeals can be struck out.

The following table provides the latest count of appeals outstanding with DWP. The count is conducted at the end of each month so this data is correct as of 30 April 2011.

Appeals outstanding in DWP

	Number
Bereavement Benefit[1]	70
Disablement Benefit[1]	70
Employment and Support Allowance[1]	29,390
Incapacity Benefit[1]	2,130
Income Support[1]	2,100
Jobseekers Allowance[1]	4,310
Maternity Allowance[1]	40
Social Fund[1]	330
Pension Credit[2]	1,760
State Pension[2]	240
Winter Fuel[2]	80
International Pension Centre (Working Age)[2]	30
Disability Living Allowance[1]	9,460
Attendance Allowance[1]	420
Carers Allowance[1]	700
Total	51,130

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

[1] Source—Management Information System Programme (MISP). MISP is the departmental performance management, data capture and reporting tool.

[2] Source—Pension Service Appeals Team Database

The data is a count of all outstanding decisions in DWP on 30 April 2011 so includes all appeals that will be referred to the First-tier Tribunal and appeals that may be cleared though DWP internal processes. Individuals may appeal against each appealable decision they receive so could have more than one appeal, against decisions for more than one benefit.

The information quoted is internal management information for internal DWP use only and does not form part of the official statistics outputs that are released by the Department in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice.

Housing benefit and council tax benefit are administered by individual local authorities. Data on outstanding appeals for these benefits is not held by DWP.

Social Security Benefits: Mental Health

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of sanctions in the benefits system for people with mental health conditions. [53733]

Maria Miller: The Department keeps sanctions in the benefits system under continual review to ensure effectiveness and appropriateness. Safeguards are in place to ensure vulnerable claimants, such as those with mental health conditions, are not sanctioned inappropriately. Where necessary this includes conducting home visits before a sanction is considered. These safeguards will continue. Support for those in the ESA support group, who have the most severe conditions, will remain unconditional.

The role of sanctions has been reviewed as part of our programme of welfare reform. For the first time, our employment programmes will be truly personalised. Advisers in the Work Programme and Jobcentre Plus will devise tailored plans for each claimant, taking account of their circumstances, including the effects of any mental health condition. We believe that the changes we are making to conditionality will enable us to better match the requirements on an individual to their particular circumstances. This should benefit those with mental health conditions, particularly conditions that fluctuate.

State Retirement Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the proposed flat-rate state pension to come into effect. [52976]

Steve Webb: The consultation paper, 'A State Pension for the 21st Century', consults on two options for reforming the state pension system for future pensioners and how future changes to the state pension age should be managed.

Without wishing to pre-empt the consultation process, we would currently imagine introducing a reformed state pension for new pensioners at some point in the next Parliament.

Unemployed People: Work Experience

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which sectors will be covered by his proposed sector-based work academies apart from the hospitality and leisure sectors. [57685]

Chris Grayling: Sector-based work academies will be part of the package of additional support options which Jobcentre Plus can use to help people into work prior to referral to the Work programme. It is intended that sector-based work academies will be a flexible model that can be tailored to meet sector and local needs. Within this model it is expected sector-based work academies will be established in sectors with high volumes of current local vacancies—with participants receiving a guaranteed job interview upon completion of the pre-employment training and work experience placement.

We will look to establish some of the initial sector-based work academies in the retail and hospitality sectors. However, it will be up to Jobcentre Plus, working in partnership with local employers and training providers, to determine the most appropriate offer to meet the need of the local labour market. Therefore the sectors covered by sector-based work academies will not be prescribed.

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made on preparations for the introduction of sector-based work academies in August 2011; and if he will make a statement. [57686]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus is responsible for the delivery of sector-based work academies and preparations for implementation in England from August 2011 are underway. Jobcentre Plus is working in partnership with Skills Funding Agency at national level, and further education colleges and training providers at local level to ensure that the required training provision is in place from August, and engaging with employers at national and local level to identify suitable work experience placements and job opportunities.

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the geographical distribution of sector-based work academies; and if he will make a statement. [57694]

Chris Grayling: It is intended that sector-based work academies will be a flexible model that can be tailored to meet sector and local needs. As a locally-driven initiative, the geographical distribution of sector-based work academies will depend on the appetite of employers, training providers and claimants across the Jobcentre Plus districts.

Unemployment: Females

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will take steps to prevent women in employment becoming unemployed before they reach the state pension age; [58163]

(2) whether his Department undertook research on the effects of *(a)* unemployment and *(b)* planned changes to the pension age on (i) men and (ii) women as part of the Age Positive campaign; and if he will make a statement. [58164]

Steve Webb: The Government's Age Positive initiative provides guidance for employers on the business benefits of retaining older male and female workers up to and beyond state pension age. The Government are working in partnership with key business leaders in the main occupational sectors to drive forward sustained improvement around the recruitment, retention and training of older people and embed effective work force practices that include flexible work and flexible retirement opportunities.

The Age Positive initiative itself does not commission or undertake formal research but has used evidence around age, health and employment from expert business-focused organisations such as the Health and Safety Executive; the Chartered Management Institute; the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development; and DWP commissioned research. DWP commissions a range of evidence which it publishes on its website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/agepositive.asp

Evidence on the impact of the state pension age increase is in the impact assessment for the Pensions Bill. DWP Research Report 615 ("50+ back to work evidence review and indicative guide for secondary data analysis" S. Vegeris, et al, 2010) summarises research and evaluation of DWP employment initiatives for older people.

Unemployment: Young People

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of long-term trends in youth unemployment. [57993]

Chris Grayling: In line with the Government's economic strategy for recovery from the recession, set out in the Plan for Growth published alongside the Budget, we expect unemployment, including youth unemployment, to fall in the long-term.

To support young people into work we are providing funding for up to 250,000 more apprenticeships over the next four years and funding for 100,000 work placements over the next two years. On 12 May 2011 the Prime Minister announced an enhanced £60 million package of support for young people, in addition to the investment made at the Budget. The new £60 million package will include:

The launch of a new £30 million Innovation Fund which will help disadvantaged people using social finance models;

Early access to Work Programme places for vulnerable 18-year-old people who are likely to be struggling to make the transition from education to work;

Additional support for 16 and 17-year-old people claiming jobseeker's allowance on the grounds of hardship, including access to work experience and work clubs.

Work Capability Assessment

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of Atos assessments took more than 35 days to complete *(a)* in Makerfield constituency and *(b)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [57553]

Chris Grayling: The following information relates to April 2011, the latest period for which figures are available.

The data relate to:

Employment support allowance (ESA), incapacity benefit reassessment (IBR), industrial injuries disablement benefit (IIDB) and service personnel VA war pension cases (SPVA);

Cases where Wigan Medical Examination Centre is the preferred medical examination centre (MEC) on Atos Healthcare's medical services referral system (MSRS).

April 2011

	Wigan MEC total cases	*Wigan MEC over 35 days*	*% cleared over 35 days*	*England total cases*	*England over 35 days*	*% cleared over 35 days*
ESA outputs[1]	382	161	42.1	36,619	16,204	44.3
Other benefit types						
IBR	15	0	0	1,760	0	0
IIDB	9	0	0	3,193	261	8
SPVA	5	1	20	491	11	2
DLA	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	3,260	19	0.5

[1] For ESA Atos Healthcare has an actual average clearance target of 35 days (this includes asking the customer to complete an ESA50 questionnaire and sending a reminder as appropriate), and then arranging and conducting an assessment if appropriate. Achievement nationally in April 11 was an average clearance time of 33 days.

[2] DLA assessments mainly carried out in customer's own home—no data available linking to a MEC.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to respond to question 10614 , on access to work, tabled on 17 July 2010 for answer on 21 July 2010. [49711]

Chris Grayling *[holding answer 29 March 2011]:* I replied to the hon. Member's question on 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 402-03W.

CABINET OFFICE

Bowel Cancer

Frank Dobson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the five-year survival rate was for *(a)* male and *(b)* female bowel cancer patients in each (i) primary care trust, (ii) cancer network and (iii) strategic health authority in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [55819]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated May 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the five-year cancer survival rate was for (a) male and (b) female bowel cancer patients in each (i) primary care trust, (ii) cancer network and (iii) strategic health authority in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [55819]

ONS publish five-year cancer survival rates for adults (aged 15-99). Survival is calculated from the date of diagnosis.

Bowel cancer, or colorectal cancer, is cancer of the colon and rectum combined. ONS publications on cancer survival generally present figures for colon cancer rather than colorectal cancer. However, five- year colorectal cancer survival figures for England, for males and females diagnosed during 2004 - 2008 and followed up to the end of 2009, are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14007

Survival rates for bowel cancer are not available for (i) primary care trusts in England. One year survival rates for all cancers combined are available. For patients diagnosed during 1996-2006 and followed up to the end of 2007, the figures are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15388

Figures are presented for each of the 11 years from 1996 - 2006, for all adults (persons aged 15 – 99 years), persons aged 55 - 64 years and persons aged 75 - 99 years.

The latest five-year survival figures available for (ii) cancer networks in England, for six common cancers including colon cancer, for patients diagnosed in 1991-2006 and followed up to 2007, are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15387

The results are divided into three periods: 1991 - 1995, 1996 - 2000 and 2001 - 2006.

The latest five-year survival figures available for (iii) strategic health authorities, for eight common cancers including colon cancer, for patients diagnosed in 2001-2003 and followed up to the end of 2008, are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15379

Children

Jason McCartney: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of 0 to 10 year olds in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* the North East in the next 10 years; [57367]

(2) what the projected birth rate in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* the North East is in the next 10 years. [57340]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking what the projected birth rate in (a) Yorkshire and the Humber and (b) the North East is in the next 10 years [57340], and what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of 0 to 10 year olds in (a) Yorkshire and the Humber and (b) the North East in the next 10 years. [57367]

Estimates of future population are available as population projections. The most recent subnational population projections are based on the mid-year population estimates for 2008.

The general fertility rate for the next ten years has been calculated using the projected number of births and population.

Projected general fertility rate[1] in Yorkshire and The Humber and the North East, 2010 to 2020

	Yorkshire and The Humber	*North East*
2010	61.8	59.9
2011	61.9	60.1
2012	62.1	60,3
2013	62:6	60.7
2014	63.2	61.3
2015	63.8	61.8
2016	64.5	62.5
2017	65.0	62.9
2018	65.2	63.0
2019	65.1	62.8
2020	64.7	62.3

[1] Number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years old

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Between mid-2010 and mid-2020, the number of children aged between 0 and 10 years old is projected to increase from 668,700 to 751,700 in Yorkshire and The Humber, an increase of 83,000, and from 312,900 to 337,500 in the North East, an increase of 24,600.

The subnational population projections are not forecasts. They are based on demographic trends and indicate what the population of an area is likely to be if recently observed trends in fertility, mortality and migration were to continue.

Civil Servants: Recruitment

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many complaints were received in respect of the vetting group in each of the last five years; [57411]

(2) how many vacant posts in the civil service requiring security clearance through the provisions of the vetting group policy for *(a)* permanent and *(b)* contract positions have been advertised in each of the last five years; and how many posts required security clearance to have been already obtained in each such year; [57410]

(3) what reports he has received of recruitment agencies advertising for vacant posts in Government departments or public bodies that have provided incorrect information about the application process in relation to vetting in the last five years. [57412]

Mr Maude: The number of vacancies across the civil service (requiring security clearances or otherwise) is not collected centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost. The Cabinet Office continues to receive correspondence from MPs and members of the public, and telephone queries, regarding instances of recruitment agencies specifying that an existing security clearance is required to apply for a vacancy. Officials continue to work with the Professional Contractors

Group (PCG) and the Recruitment and Employment Confederation (REC) to address this problem.

In September 2009, after discussions with the PCG, Cabinet Office established an electronic mail box for PCG members (and others) to report instances where the publicly available policy and guidance on vetting appears to have been ignored as part of the recruitment or contracting process. Since June 2010, 241 vacancy details have been forwarded to the mailbox where individuals felt that the recruiter should not have required an existing national security clearance. Officials use this information to inform their ongoing work to address this issue.

Community Matters

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what representations he has received on the participation of Community Matters in the Office for Civil Society strategic partners programme; and if he will make a statement. [56771]

Mr Hurd: I have received representations from Community Matters, some of its members and others in relation to the Office for Civil Society Strategic Partners programme. Many of these have asked for Community Matters to be reinstated as a Strategic Partner.

While Community Matters will not be reinstated, I have asked my officials to commission the organisation to look at what big society policies and programmes mean for some of the groups it represents. This work will take place this year.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what mechanism his Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance; [55897]

(2) what mechanism his Department has established to ensure that payments made by the Prime Minister's Office are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55883]

Mr Maude: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Office does not have any contracts to which the Government's Fair Payment Guidance refers.

Departmental Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps the Deputy Prime Minister is taking to encourage charitable giving by Ministers in his office. [57133]

Mr Hurd: All Government Ministers have pledged to undertake a 'one day challenge' with a charity or community group of their choice. This is a clear and public commitment by Ministers to give their time to help others. The pledge aims to inspire others to consider how they might be able to support their communities to benefit themselves, as well as their chosen organisations.

Departmental Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data his Department has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months; and what such research and data collection exercises undertaken by the Department have not been amended in that period. [56769]

Mr Hurd: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Government Departments: Procurement

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to reduce *(a)* costs and *(b)* inefficiency in the Government supply chain. [52846]

Mr Maude: Firstly, we are centralising the procurement of common goods and services. For each category of spend there will be a single supply strategy so we can significantly reduce spend through aggregation, standardisation and rationalisation.

Secondly, since July 2010 I have initiated a series of negotiations with over 50 of its major suppliers. These discussions identified and delivered savings of over £800 million in 2010-11. High level negotiations are being undertaken on a 'once for government' portfolio basis, taking account of other work to achieve savings eg the Major Projects Review, the ICT moratorium, and the curtailment of discretionary spend.

Thirdly, the Cabinet Office has appointed a network of Crown Representatives to manage relationships with major suppliers who hold a portfolio of contracts across central Departments and ensure Government acts as a strategic 'single' client. Crown Representatives will be able to challenge suppliers where there is duplication across these contracts and spot opportunities for synergy and cost removal.

Fourthly, to address inefficiency in the procurement process, which adds to costs for both Government and suppliers, we undertook a Lean review of the procurement process, which has suggested actions to tackle wasteful practices and unnecessary complexity. We are now engaged on an implementation programme to apply lean' thinking and techniques to a number of new projects in central Government procurement in order to test these findings to achieve time and cost savings for the benefit of both bidders and the public purse. We will roll out the new approach once the route is proven.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he has taken to ensure that 25 per cent. of Government contracts are awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises. [57674]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friends the Member for Stroud (Neil Carmichael) and the Member for Bromsgrove (Sajid Javid) on 13 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1365W.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of central government procurement processes in evaluating the ability of small and medium-sized companies to receive an appropriate share of public sector contracts. [57675]

Mr Maude: On 11 February, the Prime Minister and I announced a series of measures to make it easier for SMEs to compete for Government contracts. Details can be found on the Cabinet Office website:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/government-opens-contracts-small-business

In particular, we are seeking to eliminate prequalification questionnaires below a £100,000 threshold and promoting use of the SME-friendly Open Procedure above £100,000, which is being tested on 11 projects. This ensures a more-level playing field for SMEs when bidders are being evaluated.

The Crown Commercial Representative for SMEs, Stephen Allott, is working with Departments to plan to run a series of Product Surgeries, the details of which will be announced soon. Stephen is keen to ensure that the surgeries provide a real opportunity for constructive engagement between innovative SMEs and Government and that all participants see real value in the process.

We will be publishing, in June, central Government Departments' specific action plans detailing how they will increase the amount of their business going to SMEs. These have all been reviewed by their respective Minister or Permanent Secretary.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the Plan for Growth, when he plans to publish a guide to public sector intellectual property procurement policy. [58167]

Mr Maude: We expect to publish the guide to public sector intellectual property procurement policy before the end of September 2011.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many people claiming jobseeker's allowance have a university degree; [57031]

(2) what proportion of those on jobseeker's allowance are under 18-years-old; [57036]

(3) what proportion of those on jobseeker's allowance are under 30-years-old. [57037]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated May 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking: what proportion of those currently on Jobseeker's Allowance are under 18 years old, (057036), what proportion of those currently on Jobseeker's Allowance are under 30 years old, (057037) how many of the people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance have a university degree? (057031)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

The proportion of those claiming JSA who were under 18 years old in April 2011 was 0.4%.

The proportion of those claiming JSA who were under 30 years old in April 2011 was 42.7%.

The Jobcentre Plus administrative system does not hold data on educational qualifications. An alternative data source for data relating to benefits is the Annual Population Survey (APS) which also collects information regarding educational qualifications.

From APS the number of people claiming JSA with a degree or equivalent was 128,000 (and the proportion was 10.7%) for the 12 month period October 2009 to September 2010 which is the latest period available.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Low Birthweight Babies: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of *(a)* low and *(b)* very low weight live births were recorded in the Peterborough city council area in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [57415]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated May 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of (a) low and (b) very low weight live births were recorded in the Peterborough City Council area in each year since 2001 [57415].

Table 1 below shows the number and percentage of all live births which were (a) low birthweight and, (b) very low birthweight in Peterborough Unitary Authority, in 2001 to 2009 (the latest year available).

Information on live births is routinely published by different characteristics of birth and published on the Office for National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1440k

Table 1: Number and percentage of low birthweight[1] and very low birthweight[2] live births, Peterborough Unitary Authority, 2001-09[3]

Number/percentage of all births

	Low birthweight		*Very low birthweight*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2001	161	7.8	34	1.7
2002	185	8.6	22	1.0
2003	179	8.1	41	1.9
2004	199	8.3	23	1.0
2005	175	7.2	32	1.3
2006	204	7.8	29	1.1
2007	213	7.7	24	0.9
2008	240	8.1	37	1.2
2009	238	8.0	40	1.4

[1] Low birthweight is defined as less than 2,500 grams.

[2] Very low birthweight is defined as less than 1,500 grams.

[3] Calculated as a percentage of all births for which a valid birthweight was recorded.

Lung Cancer

Mr Baron: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the five-year survival rate for *(a)* male and *(b)* female lung cancer patients (i) in each primary care trust, (ii) in each cancer network and (iii) in England was in the last five years for which figures are available; [57946]

(2) what the *(a)* one-year and *(b)* five-year survival rate for lung cancer in people aged (i) 49 years and under, (ii) 50 to 59 years, (iii) 60 to 69 years, (iv) 70 to 79 years and (v) 80 years and over (A) in each primary care trust, (B) in each cancer network and (C) in England was in the last five years for which figures are available. [57947]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

(1) What the five-year survival rate for (a) male and (b) female lung cancer patients (i) in each primary care trust, (ii) in each cancer network and (iii) in England was in the last five years for which figures are available. [57946]

(2) What the (a) one-year and (b) five-year survival rate for lung cancer in people aged (i) 49 years and under, (ii) 50 to 59 years, (iii) 60 to 69 years, (iv) 70 to 79 years and (v) 80 years and over (A) in each primary care trust, (B) in each cancer network and (C) in England was for the last five years for which figures are available. [57947]

ONS publish one-year and five-year cancer survival rates for adults (aged 15-99). Survival is calculated from the date of diagnosis.

Survival rates for lung cancer are not available for (i) primary care trusts in England. One-year survival rates for all cancers combined are available. For patients diagnosed during 1996-2006 and followed up to the end of 2007, the figures are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15388

Figures are presented for each of the 11 years from 1996-2006, for all adults (persons aged 15-99 years), persons aged 55-64 years and persons aged 75-99 years.

The latest one-year and five-year survival figures available for (ii) cancer networks in England, for six common cancers including lung cancer, for (a) male and (b) female patients diagnosed in 1991-2006 and followed up to 2007, are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15387

Figures are presented for three time periods: 1991-1995, 1996-2000 and 2001-2006, for persons aged 15-99 years.

The latest one-year and five-year survival figures available for (iii) England, for 21 common cancers including lung cancer, for (a) male and (b) female patients diagnosed in 2004-2008 and followed up to the end of 2009, are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/
Product.asp?vlnk=14007&Pos=6&ColRank=1&Rank=192

Figures are presented for all adults (persons aged 15-99 years), persons aged 15-39 years, 40-49 years, for each 10-year age group up to 70-79 years, then for 80-99 years.

The latest figures for one-year and five-year survival for lung cancer in England, for males and females, for all ages and by age group, for (a) males and (b) females are presented in Table 1 below, with comparable figures for 2000-2004 with follow up to 2005, 2001-2006 with follow up to 2007, and 2003-2007 with follow up to 2008. Figures released prior to this were published for England and Wales combined.

Table 1: One-year and five-year relative survival (percentage), with 95% confidence intervals, for males and females (aged 15 to 99 years) diagnosed with lung cancer in England, by age group and period of diagnosis[1, 2, 3, 4]

Sex	Standardisation/age group	One-year survival %	One-year survival 95%	One-year survival Confidence intervals	Five-year survival %	Five-year survival 95%	Five-year survival Confidence intervals
Patients diagnosed during 2000-04, followed up to 2005:							
Men	Age-standardised	26.1	25.8	26.4	6.5	6.3	6.8
	Unstandardised	25.2	24.9	25.5	6.3	6.1	6.6
	15-39	49	44	54	32	27	37
	40-49	33	31	35	10	9	12
	50-59	32	31	33	9	8	10
	60-69	29	29	30	8	7	8
	70-79	24	23	24	6	5	6
	80-99	16	15	17	2	2	3
Women	Age-standardised[4]	28.8	28.4	29.2	8.2	7.9	8.6
	Unstandardised	27.3	26.9	27.7	7.8	7.4	8.1
	15-39	52	46	57	37	31	42.
	40-49	39	37	41	13	11	15
	50-59	37	36	38	12	11	13
	60-69	33	32	34	10	10.	11
	70-79	25	25	26	6	6	7
	80-99	16	15	17	2	2	3
Patients diagnosed during 2001-06, followed up to 2007:							
Men	Age-standardised	26.8	26.5	27.1	6.9	6.7	7.1
	Unstandardised	25.8	25.5	26.0	6.7	6.4	6.9
	15-39	50	45	54	32	28	37
	40-49	35	33	37	11	10	12
	50-59	32	31	33	9	9	10

Table 1: One-year and five-year relative survival (percentage), with 95% confidence intervals, for males and females (aged 15 to 99 years) diagnosed with lung cancer in England, by age group and period of diagnosis[1, 2, 3, 4]

		One-year survival			Five-year survival		
Sex	*Standardisation/age group*	*%*	*95%*	*Confidence intervals*	*%*	*95%*	*Confidence intervals*
	60-69	30	29	31	8	8	9
	70-79	25	24	25	6	5	6
	80-99	16	16	17	2	2	3
Women	Age-standardised[4]	29.9	29.6	30.3	8.7	8.5	9.0
	Unstandardised	28.4	28.0	28.7	8.2	7.9	8.5
	15-39	52	47	57	35	30	40
	40-49	42	40	44	15	13	17
	50-59	38	37	39	12	11	13
	60-69	35	34	35	11	10	11
	70-79	26	26	27	7	6	7
	80-99	17	16	18	3	2	3
Patients diagnosed during 2003-07, followed up to 2008:							
Men	Age-standardised	27.7	27.4	28.0	7.3	7.1	7.6
	Unstandardised	26.6	26.3	26.9	7.0	6.8	7.3
	15-39	48	43	53	29	24	35
	40-49	36	34	38	12	10	14
	50-59	33	32	34	10	9	11
	60-69	31	30	31	8	8	9
	70-79	26	25	26	6	6	7
	80-99	17	17	18	3	2	3
Women	Age-standardised[4]	31.0	30.6	31.4	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
	Unstandardised	29.3	28.9	29.7	8.7	8.4	9.0
	15-39	53	47	58	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
	40-49	44	41	46	15	13	17
	50-59	39	38	40	13	12	14
	60-69	36	35	36	11	11	12
	70-79	27	27	28	7	7	8
	80-99	17	17	18	3	3	4
Patients diagnosed during 2004-08, followed up to 2009:							
Men	Age-standardised	28.7	28.4	29	7.8	7.6	8.1
	Unstandardised	27.5	27.2	27.8	7.5	7.2	7.8
	15-39	50	44	55	30	25	36
	40-49	37	35	40	14	12	16
	50-59	34	33	35	10	10	11
	60-69	32	31	32	9	9	10
	70-79	27	26	27	7	6	7
	80-99	18	18	19	3	3	4
Women	Age-standardised[4]	31.9	31.5	32.3	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
	Unstandardised	30.1	29.7	30.5	8.7	8.4	9
	15-39	55	49	60	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
	40-49	44	41	46	16	14	18
	50-59	40	38	41	13	12	14
	60-69	37	36	37	11	10	12
	70-79	28	27	29	7	7	8

Table 1: One-year and five-year relative survival (percentage), with 95% confidence intervals, for males and females (aged 15 to 99 years) diagnosed with lung cancer in England, by age group and period of diagnosis[1, 2, 3, 4]

		One-year survival			Five-year survival		
Sex	*Standardisation/age group*	*%*	*95%*	*Confidence intervals*	*%*	*95%*	*Confidence intervals*
	80-99	18	18	19	3	3	4

[1] Relative survival is the probability of survival (shown here as a percentage) after correction for other causes of death.

[2] Because cancer survival varies with age at diagnosis, the summary survival estimates for all ages combined (15-99 years) have been age-standardised, where possible, to control for changes in the age profile of cancer patients over time.

[3] Lung cancer is defined by the International Classification of Diseases, tenth revision (ICD-10) codes C33 and C34.

[4] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[5] It is not possible to give an age-standardised figure if there are too few patients in a given age group to provide a reliable survival estimate or if very few patients actually died in one of the intervals of time since diagnosis in which survival was estimated. That may happen because survival is very high (there are very few deaths) or because it is very low (most of the patients died).

Mr Baron: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the mortality rate for lung cancer in people aged *(a)* 49 years and under, *(b)* 50 to 59 years, *(c)* 60 to 69 years, *(d)* 70 to 79 years and *(e)* 80 years and over (i) in each primary care trust, (ii) in each cancer network and (iii) in England was in the last five years for which figures are available; [57948]

(2) what the mortality rate for *(a)* male and *(b)* female patients with lung cancer (i) in each primary care trust, (ii) in each cancer network and (iii) in England was in the last five years for which figures are available. [57949]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

1. What the mortality rate for lung cancer in people aged (a) 49 years and under, (b) 50 to 59 years, (c) 60 to 69 years, (d) 70 to 79 years and (e) 80 years and over (i) in each primary care trust, (ii) in each cancer network and (iii) in England was in the last five years for which figures are available. (57948)

2. What the mortality rate for (a) male and (b) female patients with lung cancer (i) in each primary care trust, (ii) in each cancer network and (iii) in England was in the last five years for which figures are available. (57949)

Tables 1 and 2 provide the age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population, where lung cancer was the underlying cause of death, for people aged (a) 49 years and under, (b) 50 to 59 years, (c) 60 to 69 years, (d) 70 to 79 years and (e) 80 years and over (i) in each primary care organisation (Table 1) and (ii) in each cancer network (Table 2) for 2005 to 2009 combined (the latest years available), Figures for individual years were combined due to small numbers of deaths in each year.

Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages. It is ONS policy not to calculate age-standardised rates where there are less than 10 deaths in a group, as standardised rates based on small numbers of events are susceptible to inaccurate interpretation. Therefore, rates for 12 primary care organisations in Table 1 have not been calculated.

Tables 3 and 4 provide the age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population, where lung cancer was the underlying cause of death, for people aged (a) 49 years and under, (b) 50 to 59 years, (c) 60 to 69 years, (d) 70 to 79 years and (e) 80 years and over, (iii) in England, for 2005 to 2009 combined (Table 3) and individual years (Table 4) (the latest years available).

Tables 5 to 9 provide the age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population for (a) males and (b) females, where lung cancer was the underlying cause of death, (i) in each primary care organisation (Tables 5 and 6), (ii) in each cancer network (Tables 7 and 8) and (iii) in England (Table 9), for 2005 to 2009 (the latest years available).

It is not possible from the information given at death registration to state whether the deceased was a patient at the time of death.

Copies of Tables 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8 have been placed in the House of Commons library.

Table 3. Age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population, where lung cancer was the underlying cause of death, by age group, England, 2005 to 2009 combined[1,2,3,4,5]

	Rate per 100,000 population		
		95% Confidence interval	
Age group	*Rate*	*Lower limit*	*Upper limit*
49 and under	2	2	2
50-59	41	41	42
60-69	129	128	131
70-79	264	261	266
80 and over	343	340	346

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Cause of death for lung cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C33-C34.

[4] Figures for England exclude deaths of non-residents.

[5] Figures are based on deaths registered in each calendar.

Table 4. Age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population, where lung cancer was the underlying cause of death, by age group, England, 2005 to 2009[1,2,3,4,5]

		Rate per 100,000 population		
			95% Confidence interval	
Year	*Age group*	*Rate*	*Lower limit*	*Upper limit*
2005	49 and under	2	2	2
	50-59	41	40	43
	60-69	130	126	133
	70-79	269	264	274
	80 and over	325	318	333
2006	49 and under	2	2	2

Table 4. Age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population, where lung cancer was the underlying cause of death, by age group, England, 2005 to 2009[1,2,3,4,5]

		Rate per 100,000 population		
			95% Confidence interval	
Year	*Age group*	*Rate*	*Lower limit*	*Upper limit*
	50-59	43	41	45
	60-69	132	128	135
	70-79	265	260	270
	80 and over	336	328	343
2007	49 and under	2	2	2
	50-59	41	40	43
	60-69	132	129	135
	70-79	260	255	265
	80 and over	347	340	355
2008	49 and under	2	2	2
	50-59	42	41	44
	60-69	127	124	130
	70-79	266	261	271
	80 and over	353	345	360
2009	49 and under	2	2	2
	50-59	39	38	41
	60-69	126	123	129
	70-79	258	253	264
	80 and over	352	345	360

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of art estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Cause of death for lung cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C33-C34.

[4] Figures for England exclude deaths of non-residents.

[5] Figures are based on deaths registered in each calendar.

Table 9. Age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population, where lung cancer was the underlying cause of death, by sex, England, 2005 to 2009[1,2,3,4,5]

	Rate per 100,000 population		
		95% Confidence interval	
Year	*Rate*	*Lower limit*	*Upper limit*
Males			
2005	51	50	52
2006	51	50	51
2007	49	49	50
2008	49	48	50
2009	48	47	49
Females			
2005	29	28	29
2006	30	29	30
2007	30	29	30
2008	30	30	31
2009	30	29	30

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Cause of death for lung cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C33-C34.

[4] Figures for England exclude deaths of non-residents.

[5] Figures are based on deaths registered in each calendar.

Regional GDP

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of the gross domestic product of the UK was produced in each region in each of the last 30 years. [57586]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated May 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the Gross Domestic Product of the UK was produced in each region in each of the last 30 years (57586).

The Office for National Statistics does not produce regional estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) but it does produce estimates of regional Gross Value Added (GVA). GVA is GDP minus taxes on products plus subsidies on products. Estimates are produced at current basic prices.

The GVA time series began in 1989 and the latest data available are for 2009 (published in December 2010).

The tables show the UK proportions for the English regions, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland from 1989 to 2009.

Regional proportion of UK total GVA 1989-2009

										Percentage
	1989	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*
North East	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.5
North West	10.9	10.9	10.8	10.8	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.5	10.3	10.3
Yorkshire and The Humber	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.5

Regional proportion of UK total GVA 1989-2009

Percentage

	1989	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*
East Midlands	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.5
West Midlands	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.2
East of England	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6
London	18.6	18.7	18.6	18.4	18.5	18.4	18.2	18.5	18.8	19.2
South East	13.3	13.3	13.4	13.5	13.5	13.6	13.7	13.8	14.0	14.2
South West	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6
Wales	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9
Scotland	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.5	8.3
Northern Ireland	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3

Percentage

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
North East	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
North West	10.2	10.1	10.1	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.6
Yorkshire and The Humber	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.1
East Midlands	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3
West Midlands	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.4
East of England	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.7
London	19.6	19.7	19.7	20.0	20.1	20.2	20.4	20.7	21.0	21.3	21.5
South East	14.5	14.6	14.7	14.7	14.7	14.7	14.6	14.6	14.5	14.4	14.3
South West	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.7
Wales	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6
Scotland	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.3
Northern Ireland	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3

Source:
Regional GVA, ONS, total GVA available on the National Statistics website at:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/GVA_NUTS1.xls

Public Sector: Co-operatives and Mutuals

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what business support he plans to make available to those seeking to establish public service co-operatives; and if he will make a statement. [56873]

Mr Hurd: Government will invest over £10 million to fund a programme of support for some of the most promising and innovative mutuals so that they reach the point of investment readiness. The support programme also aims to stimulate the development of the mutuals concept in key public services areas in order to catalyse take up of the 'right to provide' through a variety of delivery models.

The full programme is currently being developed. The Mutuals Information Service run by Local Partnerships, provides advice and signposting through a telephone and e-mail helpdesk, to public sector workers interested in exploring opportunities for mutualisation.

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the establishment and participation of co-operatives as a means of delivering public services on behalf of the state; and if he will make a statement. [56875]

Mr Hurd: This coalition Government are committed to giving public sector workers new rights to form employee-owned mutuals and co-operatives.

To help drive this commitment further and faster across Government and the public sector I have established the Mutuals Taskforce chaired by Professor Julian Le Grand. The Taskforce is advising me and other ministerial colleagues about how we can best enable the success of this policy. The group includes representatives from the John Lewis Partnership; leading practitioners; and a range of expert organisations in the field. The Taskforce is considering the evidence and experience internationally, including from within the EU, on mutuals and co-operatives delivering public services.

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the sources of finance available for the capitalisation of public service mutuals; and if he will make a statement. [56874]

Mr Hurd: This coalition Government are committed to giving public sector workers new rights to form employee-owned mutuals and co-operatives.

Government will not seek to dictate what is best for employees and the users of services, rather the precise model of mutualisation should follow from the service being provided and the requirements of the new organisation. Financing will be part of this consideration. Some may seek to form a joint venture with an existing organisation, others will seek debt financing or may look to access capital from their membership.

These new mutuals will benefit from "Growing the Social Investment Market—a vision and strategy", published in February 2011, opening up new finance opportunities to social ventures. They will also be able to access at least £10 million of funding to get the help they need, including support to access finance.

Taxation

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether any levy mechanisms are *(a)* under and *(b)* awaiting consideration by the classification committee of the Office for National Statistics. [57970]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking whether any levy mechanisms are a) under or b) awaiting consideration by the classification committee of the Office for National Statistics (57970).

The National Accounts Classification Committee (NACC) makes classification decisions in line with a published protocol that is available on our website at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/national_statistics/cop/downloads/NAclassification.pdf

The proposal for a Bank Levy, contained in Part 5 of the Finance Bill 2011, was considered by NACC earlier this year, with agreement that (subject to the passage of legislation) the proceeds of the levy should be classified as a tax, coded under international national accounts guidance as D.59 'other current taxes'.

ONS has been asked by HMT for classification decisions on a number of environmental policies that could be described as levy mechanisms. They include the "Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT)", originally introduced as the Energy Efficiency Commitment; and the "Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation", which was introduced in April 2008 using powers included in the Energy Act 2004. ONS has not yet reached a final decision on these cases.

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* Buying Solutions and *(c)* the Central Office of Information are entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56435]

Mr Maude: There are no full time union representatives in the Cabinet Office, Buying Solutions or the Central Office of Information (COI).

The Cabinet Office, Buying Solutions and COI allocate facility time to recognised Union representatives, as set out in the following table:

Organisation	*Total days allocated*	*Number of TU representatives*
Cabinet Office	464	38
Buying Solutions	100 approx	4
COI	Not exceeding 110 days	1

41 of the 43 representatives earn a salary in excess of £25,900 annually - the most junior earning in the AO range of £21,371-£24,565, and the most senior is at Director equivalent level, earning a salary in the £90-95,000 range. Only part of any individual's time is accounted for by trade union work, ranging from the equivalent of two days a week (in the case of the COI representative) to a few hours a year.

Voluntary Work

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will take steps to promote the benefits of volunteering to workers in the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector who are to be made redundant. [57113]

Mr Hurd: On 23 May the Government published the Giving White Paper, which sets out a range of new programmes and initiatives that will encourage more people to give time and money.

Individuals leaving the civil service as a result of redundancy will receive transition support from their Departments. Part of this support will include information on volunteering.

To support unemployed people to volunteer the Department for Work and Pensions have created Work Together. This is a Great Britain wide initiative that aims to encourage unemployed people to consider volunteering as a way of improving their employment prospects while they are looking for work.

Well-being

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance he has given to the Office for National Statistics on developing indicators to monitor the well-being and happiness of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children. [56731]

Mr Hurd: No guidance has been given to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on developing indicators to monitor the well-being of adults and children. At the invitation of the Prime Minister, ONS agreed to produce subjective measures of well-being. Government will be a key user of the information, but their production by ONS will ensure their independence.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of any variation in wellbeing *(a)* within and *(b)* between regions and nations of the UK. [56805]

Mr Hurd: No modelling has been done within the Cabinet Office since the 2003 PMSU paper on life satisfaction on variations in well-being either within the UK or between nations. The Office for National Statistics surveys that have now commenced will have a sample size large enough to examine variations across local authority areas.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will evaluate research on the effects of moving house on the well-being of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children. [57102]

Mr Hurd: Cabinet Office has no plans to undertake such an evaluation.

Well-being: Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what assessment he has made of the trends in levels of childhood happiness and well-being in the last 30 years; [56726]

(2) which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals his Department has consulted in drawing up its indicator for measuring the happiness and well-being of children. [56727]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking what assessments have been made of the trends in levels of childhood happiness and well-being in the last 30 years (56726) and which (a) organisations and (b) individuals have been consulted in drawing up an indicator for measuring the happiness and well-being of children (56727).

The ONS published a working paper entitled 'Current Measures and the Challenges of Measuring Children's Well-being' in 2009:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/article.asp?ID=2371

as well as publishing a Focus on Children and Young People in the same year.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/
Product.asp?vlnk=15232&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=272

As part of the Measuring National Well-being (MNW) programme, the ONS has met with a range of relevant stakeholders to discuss the measurement of Children's and Young People's Well-being. This has included the Children's Society

http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/research/
initiatives/well-being/publications

the Children's Rights Commissioner, the New Economics Foundation and Rathbone. As part of the 175 events that we held during the national debate, we were also invited to a number of schools where children told us what mattered to them. At the next MNW Technical Advisory Group a range of subject matter specialists from academia, government departments and other relevant organisations will discuss this issue further. The papers from this meeting will be made available on the ONS website.

Further information on Measuring National Well-being please visit our homepage:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/well-being

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 8 June 2011

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Crops: Genetically Modified Organisms

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has undertaken of whether Bt proteins from genetically modified crops can survive the human digestive system and pass into the blood supply; and if she will make a statement. [58067]

Anne Milton: I have been asked to reply.

In the European Union, genetically modified (GM) foods undergo a pre-market evaluation that includes the safety of components introduced into GM crops, such as Bt proteins. The safety of Bt proteins has also been assessed during the authorisation of pesticides that contain the microorganism Bacillus thuringiensis. The assessment of the Bt proteins that are present in authorised GM foods is based on tests in animals and does not include human trials to examine whether the proteins pass into the blood supply. However, the available data from in vitro tests have shown that Bt proteins are rapidly broken down by digestive enzymes in the same way as most other proteins in the diet.

Dangerous Dogs

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to respond to her Department's consultation on *(a)* proposals for compulsory microchipping and *(b)* other proposals in its consultation on dangerous dogs. [58045]

Mr Paice: We will shortly announce measures to tackle them and make our streets safer.

Responses to the proposals in the DEFRA dangerous dogs consultation, held last year, were strongly divided with primary concerns being whether the bans on specific dog breeds were the best approach to reduce dog attacks, and how to deal promptly and effectively with those that allow their dogs to be a nuisance to others.

There has not been a public consultation on compulsory microchipping.

DEFRA is working closely with the Home Office on the antisocial behaviour dimension to the dangerous dogs issue. The Home Office have run a public consultation on proposals to replace and streamline the measures to tackle antisocial behaviour. The new, flexible, tools proposed would replace 18 formal powers currently in use, including those applicable to dogs. The consultation ended on 17 May and the responses are now being analysed.

Appliances: Energy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on encouraging the implementation of *(a)* energy efficiency and *(b)* energy labelling standards for all major energy-consuming appliances. [57323]

Richard Benyon: The Government are fully committed to raising energy efficiency standards for products, and encouraging consumers and businesses to buy the most efficient products available. Removing the least efficient products from the market remains one of the most cost-effective ways of reducing CO_2 emissions, and benefits consumers and businesses by reducing their energy bills. The UK is at the forefront of negotiating ambitious yet achievable minimum energy performance and labelling standards in Europe for the highest energy-consuming appliances. Government recently launched a campaign with retailers to promote a better understanding of the EU Energy label among consumers.

In addition to minimum energy performance and labelling standards agreed in Europe, DEFRA, along with the Energy Saving Trust, has launched a voluntary retailer initiative for televisions, which encourages retailers to remove the least efficient products from their shelves ahead of legislative requirements and promote best in class products. The UK is also working closely with industry on an EU-wide voluntary code of conduct on data centres.

Our enforcement authority, the National Measurement Office, works with businesses to ensure these energy efficiency measures are adhered to.

Food Production

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the food production industry is comprised of small and medium-sized enterprises. [58134]

Mr Paice: Small and medium enterprises are those where the number of employees is between 0 and 249.

As a percentage of the total number of enterprises in the manufacture of food products and beverages sector, 98% are small and medium enterprises.

Based upon turnover of the manufacture of food products and beverages sector, 26% are small and medium enterprises.

The breakdown of these figures is shown in the following table.

	2010 UK					
	Number			*Percent*		
	Enterprises	*Employment (1,000)*	*Turnover (£ million)*	*Enterprises*	*Employment*	*Turnover*
Manufacture of food products and beverages						
All enterprises	13,650	404	78,035	100.0	100.0	100.0

			2010 UK			
		Number			Percent	
	Enterprises	Employment (1,000)	Turnover (£ million)	Enterprises	Employment	Turnover
All employers	5,885	396	77,599	43.1	98.0	99.4
With no employees[1]	7,765	8	436	56.9	2.0	0.6
1	480	1	75	3.5	0.2	0.1
2-4	1,790	6	773	13.1	1.5	1.0
5-9	1,140	[2]7	823	8.4	1.7	1.1
10-19	820	12	[2]1,130	6.0	3.0	1.4
20-49	770	24	3,272	5.6	5.9	4.2
50-99	375	[2]25	[2]5,282	2.7	6.2	6.8
100-199	235	34	6,612	1.7	8.4	8.5
200-249	45	[2]10	[2]1,660	0.3	2.5	2.1
Total SMEs	13,420	127	20,063	98	31	26
250-499	95	31	[2]5,060	0.7	7.7	6.5
500 or more	135	241	51,474	1.0	59.7	66.0

[1] "With no employees" comprises sole proprietorships and partnerships comprising only the self-employed owner-manager(s), and companies comprising of only one employee director.

[2] Numbers for beverages not included in order to avoid disclosure of confidential data

Note:

Numbers of enterprises are rounded, in order to avoid disclosure. Consequently, the "All Enterprises" and "All Employers" totals may not exactly match the sum of their parts.

Source:

BIS Enterprise Directorate Analytical Unit

Food: Waste

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations govern the provision by retail outlets and restaurants of items of food past their sell-by date to homeless people and charitable organisations. [57518]

Mr Paice: There are no specific regulations which cover the provision of food to homeless people or charities.

However businesses should be aware of the following.

The Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended) provides the framework for all food legislation in Britain—similar legislation applies in Northern Ireland. This provides food safety requirements to prevent food being food sold or given away by a food business that would be injurious to health or unfit for consumption.

The Food Labelling Regulations 1996 (as amended) require that all pre-packed foods carry a durability indication, either a 'best before' or 'use by' date. It is against the law to supply food for human consumption past the 'use by' date as the safety of the food is likely to be compromised. Food can be supplied after the 'best before' date, as long as the food is fit for consumption and not injurious to health.

'Sell by' dates are voluntary markings by retailers and as such there are no regulations covering their use.

Most of the provision in the Food Labelling Regulations do not apply to catering establishments, including providing date marks. However, the Food Safety Act requirements still apply and the food would have to be safe.

Forests

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements she has put in place to ensure the protection and continuation of existing permissive access rights under any prospective sale of Forestry Commission land. [58033]

Mr Paice: All new sales of the public forest estate have been suspended until the Government have considered the recommendations from the Independent Panel on Forestry.

Infectious Diseases: Herbal Medicine

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has received on the treatment of echinococcus multilocularis following the implementation of the EU Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products. [57308]

Mr Paice: I have not received any representations regarding the treatment of animals against *Echinococcus multilocularis* with respect to the implementation of the EU directive on traditional herbal medicines, which primarily relates to human health and therefore falls to the Department of Health.

Livestock: Transport

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information regarding animal welfare *(a)* on the journey and *(b)* at the final destination is requested by the Animal Exports Division of her Department before authorisations for exports are granted. [57912]

Mr Paice: The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) is responsible for checking the application for a journey log which has to be submitted by the transporter for any consignment of major livestock species or domestic equidae that are to be exported on journeys lasting over 8 hours. The application must provide, among other things, details of the length of the journey including any statutory rest periods. Once AHVLA is satisfied that the journey will meet all of the necessary EU legal requirements, it is approved. The journey log must then accompany the consignment on the journey to the final destination. The journey log must be returned by transporters to AHVLA following completion of the journey. AHVLA undertakes checks of returned journey logs to ensure the journey was completed as planned, (or if deviations occurred, these were justifiable) and that no infringements of the EU legislation took place.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on the regulation of the export of live animals. [57913]

Mr Paice: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bridgend (Mrs Moon) on 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 610-11W.

Pets: Animal Welfare

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on pet cat containment fences; and if she will make a statement. [57618]

Mr Paice: No such research has been commissioned by DEFRA.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on banning the use of cat containment fences. [57619]

Mr Paice: Any restriction on the use of containment fences would require new legislation to be introduced. If the Government were to propose new legislation to ban the use of containment fences, there would be a public consultation exercise to provide the opportunity for interested individuals and organisations to provide their comments on the Government's proposals. All comments received would then be carefully considered before the introduction of any such legislation.

Rain Forests: Brazil

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Government of Brazil on the deforestation of the Amazon region and its likely effects on the environment; and if she will make a statement. [57489]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 7 June 2011]:* The Secretary of State visited Brazil in April and held constructive discussions with the Government to discuss deforestation and the associated biodiversity loss, with particular reference to the Amazon and Cerrado.

Trapping

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 710W, on trapping, whether she has set a date for publication of the report; and if she will make a statement. [57730]

Mr Paice: We still expect to publish the report in 2011 but it remains the case that no firm date has yet been set.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire Services: Finance

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the *(a)* highest, *(b)* average and *(c)* lowest percentage change is in estimated revenue spending power for fire services in England between 2011 and 2013; [58222]

(2) what the percentage change in estimated revenue spending power will be for the West Midlands Fire Service between 2011 and 2013. [58223]

Robert Neill: Overall, single purpose fire and rescue authorities will see a change in their estimated revenue spending power of -2.2% in 2011-12 and -0.5% in 2012-13. Information on the percentage changes in estimated revenue spending power for individual authorities can be found on the DCLG website at:

2011-12:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/spannexas.xls

2012-13:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/spannexbs3.xls

West Midlands Fire Service

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received on changes to the formula grant for West Midlands Fire Service. [58220]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Westminster North (Ms Buck) on 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 687-88W.

Homelessness

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration he has given to the balance between community empowerment and preventing opposition to any kind of local development in planning and allocating *(a)* homeless and *(b)* other services under the provisions of the Localism Bill. [57718]

Greg Clark: With regard to planning, where the last Government tried to deliver development through imposition from above, this Government will do so through participation and involvement on the ground. Our reforms will enable people to shape development in their local area, and share in the benefits of growth, to deliver the development the country needs.

With regards to homelessness, the Localism Bill does not change the duty on local housing authorities to secure suitable accommodation for households who are eligible for assistance, homeless through no fault of their own and in 'priority need'. The Bill's provisions give local authorities flexibility to end the homelessness duty with offer of suitable accommodation in private rented sector.

With regards to other services, the community right to challenge will enable communities to express an interest in running a local authority service which, where accepted, will lead to a procurement exercise for the service.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what process his Department undertook in determining the awarding of the contract to run the national representative body for local enterprise partnerships to the British Chambers of Commerce; [57859]

(2) what arrangements he plans to put in place to ensure transparency in the funding of the national representative body for local enterprise partnerships; [57860]

(3) whether he assessed the merits of alternative options for the operation of a network of local enterprise partnerships before awarding the work to the British Chambers of Commerce; [57861]

(4) what process his Department undertook to determine the cost to the public purse of establishing a national local enterprise partnership network run by the British Chambers of Commerce; [57862]

(5) if he will publish the final business case made to his Department by the British Chambers of Commerce for the operation of the national local enterprise partnership network. [57863]

Robert Neill: The British Chambers of Commerce offered to run a network of local enterprise partnerships and submitted a proposal to support this offer. The Government have chosen the British Chambers of Commerce as the preferred option to run the network because, with its existing extensive network and capability across the country, it is ideally placed to provide the capability and support that partnerships need to achieve their economic ambitions.

The Department is not procuring this service but will support this activity led by British Chambers of Commerce. No grant agreement is yet in place and any funding awarded will be subject to a satisfactory funding agreement which will be dependent on the quality of their final business case and is subject to the Department's normal funding arrangements.

Subject to the necessary redactions to protect sensitive personal and commercial information, we shall publish their final business case.

The British Chambers of Commerce is committed to working closely with other business organisations to ensure that the network is a success. We hope other business organisations will engage constructively in this work going forward.

Public Sector Pensions

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to respond to the letter of 20 April 2011 concerning public sector pensions sent by the hon. Member for Walsall North of 20 April to the Treasury; and for what reasons the letter was transferred to his Department. [57735]

Robert Neill: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 23 May 2011. The letter was transferred as my Department has policy responsibility for the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 345W, on the arts, when the project into quantifying the economic benefit of the arts and cultural sector will be completed; and if he will publish the report of the project; [58129]

(2) whether he has plans to commission a study on the value of the arts to *(a)* the economy and *(b)* society. [57893]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is currently in a scoping phase regarding the project aimed at providing a framework for quantifying the economic contribution of the Department's sectors, including arts and culture. Once this scoping phase is completed, we will be in a position to decide whether this work will be undertaken internally or commissioned externally. Once complete, the outputs of this work will be published on the DCMS website.

This project is focused on economic contribution. A few strands of work have been completed on the value of arts to society. Research produced through the Department's CASE programme considers the value of culture in terms of engagement. This can be found at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/research/CASE-value-summary-report-July10.pdf

The Arts Council did a large scale consultation in 2007 on the value of arts, the details of which can be found at the following link:

http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/about-us/research/public-value-programme/arts-debate-findings/

A report was written for the Department on the measurement of the value of culture and this was published in December 2010. This can be found at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7660.aspx

BBC

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will initiate discussions with the BBC Trust on steps to assist in ensuring that any BBC cost-saving measures are targeted at making efficiency savings. [57576]

Mr Vaizey: How the BBC implements cost-saving measures is a matter for the BBC but I encourage them to avoid any reduction in its core services as was agreed during the licence fee negotiations.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the scope is of potential changes that can be made to the governance of the BBC in advance of charter renewal. [58024]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Any changes would be made within the framework of the BBC Charter and Agreement.

Henley Review

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what meetings he has had with the Secretary of State for Education to discuss the Henley review of cultural education; [58042]

(2) when the Henley review on the future of cultural education will report. [57895]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The independent review of cultural education was announced on the 8 April 2011 and Ministers have asked Darren Henley to produce his final report by the end of the year.

Discussions between my Department and the Department for Education are on-going.

S4C

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he received a request from *(a)* members of the Welsh Government or *(b)* the Secretary of State for Wales between 6 May and 20 May 2011 to meet to discuss issues relating to S4C. [57466]

Mr Vaizey: We are not aware of any requests from Members of the Welsh Government or the Secretary of State for Wales between 6 and 20 May 2011 to meet the Secretary of State to discuss issues relating to S4C.

Video Games

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to implement recommendations of the Byron Review relating to assistance to parents to restrict children's access to games which are not suitable for their age. [57246]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are currently working with a number of key organisations on the detail of making statutory the Pan European Games Information scheme for games aimed at those aged 12 or over. This accords with the recommendations made by Tanya Byron in her report "Safer Children in Digital World". It is vital that we are satisfied that the arrangements that we are putting in place work for industry, regulators, those involved in enforcement, and, especially, for parents.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Surveys

Priti Patel: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority how many *(a)* opinion polls and *(b)* surveys IPSA (1) has commissioned since its establishment; and what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of each such activity; [57625]

(2) is planning to conduct in the next 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of each such activity. [57626]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated June 2011:

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about opinion polls and surveys planned and conducted by IPSA.

Since IPSA began operations in May 2010 it has conducted one public opinion poll and one external online survey as part of the first Annual Review of the MPs' Expenses Scheme. The opinion poll was part of a regular omnibus poll conducted by an independent polling company at a cost of approximately £2700. The online survey was created by IPSA staff using commercial software, at a one-off cost of £1169 (with one-off web hosting cost of £464). This software has subsequently been used for a website usability survey and may be used to conduct future external surveys.

At this stage, IPSA does not have specific plans for future external surveys or opinion polling, although we would anticipate periodically carrying out research into public opinion in relation to the work of IPSA.

JUSTICE

Departmental Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* HM Courts and Tribunals Service, *(c)* HM Land Registry, *(d)* the National Offender Management Service, *(e)* the National Archives and *(f)* the Office of the Public Guardian were entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union activities in (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11; how many such staff were paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost was to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties. [58224]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 23 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 407-408W.

Facilities Agreements between the Ministry of Justice and the Trade Union Sides follow the provisions of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 and the ACAS Code of Practice "Time off for Trade Union Duties and Activities" available at:

http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2391

These departmental agreements are in the process of being reviewed, and more recent data cannot currently be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost of a drug rehabilitation requirement was in the latest period for which figures are available; how many such requirements are in force; how many such requirements made in respect of persons *(a)* of each sex and *(b)* each age group were (i) made, (ii) successfully completed and (iii) breached by non-compliance in each of the last three years. [58144]

Mr Blunt: The drug rehabilitation requirement (DRR) is the primary means for sentenced offenders to address their drug misuse as part of a community order or suspended sentence order. The costs of the DRR cover treatment, which is funded by drug (and alcohol) action teams (D(A)ATs) in England, and the costs of managing the requirement by local probation trusts.

Significant local variations in D(A)AT commissioning practice and costs of treatment modalities have made it difficult to establish the average cost of the treatment element of a DRR.

Detailed work to cost the services funded by NOMS estimates the average direct cost of supporting a DRR. This is the cost per completion at different levels of intensity for different lengths of requirement, each of which relate to the seriousness of the offence and the extent of the offender's needs.[1] The estimates are as follows, and are contained in published information which has been placed in both Libraries.

Table 1: Cost per completion ("does cost") of DRR by type and length

£

	Intensity		
DRR duration (months)	*Low*	*Medium*	*High*
6	1,010	2,165	2,682
9	1,409	3,096	3,838
12	2,244	4,067	5,040
18	3,047	5,969	7,397

The most recent analysis of the case load found that on 31 December 2010 there were 8,114 community orders with a DRR and 3,127 suspended sentence orders with a DRR in force.

The following table shows the number of DRR commencements, successful completions, and revocations for non-compliance following breach proceedings broken down by age and gender in each of the last three years for which full information is available[2]. Data on the number of applications made for a summons or warrant to return the offender to court for breach are not collected centrally by type of requirement.

The proportion of offenders successfully completing DRRs rose from 47% in 2008-09 to 56% in 2009-10[3]. This is encouraging because we know from research relating to the drug treatment and testing order (DTTO), which was replaced by the DRR, that offenders who complete orders have significantly lower reconviction rates (53%) than those that do not (91%)[4], although it is not possible to attribute this difference entirely to the programme.

NOMS recently undertook a delivery review of DRRs which recommended the overhaul of starts and completion targets with clear outcome focused measures.

Number of drug rehabilitation requirements (DRRs} commenced, successfully completed and revoked for failure to comply 2008-10

		Male							
		18-20	*21-24*	*25-29*	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50-59*	*60+*	*All*
2008									
Community order	Commencements	481	1,334	2,755	4,243	1,403	134	5	10,355
	Completions	156	389	768	1,300	505	59	1	3,178
	Revoked (failure to comply)	30	63	148	198	57	1	0	497
Suspended sentence order	Commencements	200	510	944	1,411	409	48	0	3,522
	Completions	52	149	244	406	130	18	1	1,000
	Revoked (failure to comply)	10	25	54	70	14	0	0	173
2009									
Community order	Commencements	402	1,173	2,405	4,060	1,327	169	8	9,544
	Completions	170	505	1,076	1819	716	89	6	4,381
	Revoked (failure to comply)	26	54	102	155	39	3	0	379

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[1] The DRR can be used for low, medium and high sentencing bands. The amount and intensity of the drug treatment delivered under the DRR can be tailored to individual treatment needs regardless of the seriousness of the offence. The content and duration of the total community order should provide the overall restriction of liberty which is commensurate with the seriousness of the offence.

[2] These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

[3] Ministry of Justice (2010) National Offender Management Service Annual Report 2009/10: Management Information Addendum. London: Ministry of Justice.

[4] Hough, M., Clancy, A., McSweeney, T. and Turnbull, P.J. (2003) The Impact of Drug Treatment and Testing Orders on offending: two year reconviction results. Home Office Research Findings No. 184. London: Home Office.

Number of drug rehabilitation requirements (DRRs) commenced, successfully completed and revoked for failure to comply 2008-10

		Male							
		18-20	*21-24*	*25-29*	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50-59*	*60+*	*All*
Suspended sentence order	Commencements	154	426	894	1,351	441	54	5	3,325
	Completions	83	162	279	498	200	13	1	1,236
	Revoked (failure to comply)	12	16	33	39	7	0	0	107
2010									
Community order	Commencements	453	1,213	2,239	3,903	1,498	172	7	9,485
	Completions	170	467	889	1746	685	77	9	4,043
	Revoked (failure to comply)	22	47	93	138	33	1	0	334
Suspended sentence order	Commencements	139	421	812	1,483	436	43	8	3,342
	Completions	53	171	332	555	246	29	4	1,390
	Revoked (failure to comply)	7	16	18	51	6	1	0	99

		Female								
		18-20	*21-24*	*25-29*	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50-59*	*60+*	*All*	*Total*
2008										
Community order	Commencements	200	493	767	1,008	308	22	1	2,799	13,154
	Completions	54	130	206	275	91	15	1	772	3,950
	Revoked (failure to comply)	12	27	55	52	19	2	0	167	664
Suspended sentence order	Commencements	41	128	239	285	83	6	0	782	4,304
	Completions	11	31	63	83	26	1	0	215	1,215
	Revoked (failure to comply)	6	12	12	14	3	0	0	47	220
2009										
Community order	Commencements	166	453	640	967	296	20	1	2,543	12,087
	Completions	53	171	277	411	141	9	2	1,064	5,445
	Revoked (failure to comply)	12	26	37	54	19	0	0	148	527
Suspended sentence order	Commencements	37	145	218	271	107	17	0	795	4,120
	Completions	16	50	86	96	46	1	0	295	1,531
	Revoked (failure to comply)	2	8	15	11	4	0	0	40	147
2010										
Community order	Commencements	142	429	704	932	280	22	2	2,511	11,996
	Completions	49	134	247	388	139	9	1	967	5,010
	Revoked (failure to comply)	11	33	35	34	6	1	0	120	454
Suspended sentence order	Commencements	53	100	179	315	79	7	0	733	4,075
	Completions	14	50	73	123	59	9	0	328	1,718
	Revoked (failure to comply)	1	4	8	12	1	0	0	26	125

Homicide: Convictions

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for offences of *(a)* murder, *(b)* rape and *(c)* unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor there have been in each year since 1997; and what proportion of such convictions followed a guilty plea at the first instance in each such year. [57979]

Mr Blunt: Defendants pleading guilty at the Crown court for either, murder, rape or sexual activity with a child, the total number of offenders found guilty for these offences and the proportion of convictions where a guilty plea was given, England and Wales 1997 to 2010 are shown in the table.

It is not possible to determine from the Ministry of Justice court proceeding database at what stage a defendant pleaded guilty or not guilty.

Defendants pleading guilty at the Crown Court for either, murder, rape or sexual activity with a child, the total number of offenders found guilty for these offences and the proportion of convictions where a guilty plea was given, England and Wales 1997 to 2010[1,2]

Offence and outcome	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Murder														
Found guilty	275	256	252	261	285	324	277	361	394	372	369	439	376	346
No. of guilty pleas	27	44	49	40	55	55	60	90	92	87	96	84	87	72
Proportion of convictions where a guilty plea was given (%)	10	17	19	15	19	17	22	25	23	23	26	19	23	21
Rape														
Found guilty	615	674	654	593	569	651	671	748	787	854	860	913	984	1,037
No. of guilty pleas	231	237	246	215	213	258	259	310	361	395	385	406	443	466
Proportion of convictions where a guilty plea was given (%)	38	35	38	36	37	40	39	41	46	46	45	44	45	45
Sexual activity with a child[3]														
Found guilty	167	179	155	164	168	177	198	268	522	726	694	780	801	902
No. of guilty pleas	145	163	139	139	152	165	181	244	435	584	575	626	658	744
Proportion of convictions where a guilty plea was given (%)	87	91	90	85	90	93	91	91	83	80	83	80	82	82

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Prior to 2003 sexual activity with a child was classed as unlawful sexual intercourse with a child under Sexual Offences Act 1956.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

TREASURY

Banks: Regulation

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what sanctions he has considered introducing in the event that the banks participating in Project Merlin do not meet their lending targets; [58230]

(2) what sanctions Ministers and officials of his Department and representatives of the banking sector discussed imposing in the event that banks participating in Project Merlin did not meet their agreed lending targets during the negotiations for that agreement. [58232]

Mr Hoban: On 9 February, the Chancellor announced a new commitment by the UK's biggest high street banks on lending expectations and capacity. As part of this commitment, the banks intend to lend £190 billion of new credit to businesses in 2011, up from £179 billion in 2010. If demand exceeds this, the banks will lend more. £76 billion of this lending will be to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This is a 15% increase on 2010 lending of £66 billion.

The commitment to make new lending to SMEs is part of the performance metrics of each bank's chief executive and those of the senior managers responsible for SME lending. The Government reserve the right to return to this issue and take further measures if the banks fail to live up to their commitments.

Carbon Emissions

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the analysis underlying the decision to set carbon price support at the level *(a)* announced in the 2011 Budget and *(b)* proposed in the preceding consultation. [57938]

Justine Greening: The consultation asked for views on how best to implement a carbon price floor, including how the Government should determine future market prices of carbon upon which to base carbon price support rates. The consultation used the Government's long-term carbon price forecast as an illustration.

The Government published their response to the consultation on 30 March 2011, confirming that a market-based approach would be used to determine carbon price support rates as this was the option preferred by respondents.

This is available online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/
carbon_price_floor_consultation_govt_response.pdf

Child Care Tax Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of households that are entitled to assistance with childcare costs through tax credits received in excess of 80 per cent. of the maximum permissible amount; [57928]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of households receiving above 80 per cent. of the maximum permissible amount of childcare costs through tax credits in *(a)* each region, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales; [57929]

(3) what the maximum any household received as a proportion of the maximum permissible amount of childcare costs was in the latest period for which figures are available. [57930]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 224W.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on incentives on single parents to work of the end of childcare tax credit. [58136]

Mr Gauke: When estimating changes to marginal deduction rates, it is reform to the tax and benefit system as a whole that is important to households, rather than certain subsets of it.

Parents, including lone parents, currently receive support to pay for childcare through the childcare element of working tax credit. In addition, the Government maintained free early learning for three and four year olds, and extended 15 hours a week of free early education and care to all disadvantaged two year olds from 2012-13.

The new universal credit will replace the current complex system of means-tested working age benefits with an integrated payment over the next two Parliaments, reducing fraud and error and ensuring that work pays. The universal credit will improve financial work incentives by ensuring that support is reduced at a consistent and managed rate as people return to work and increase their working hours and earnings.

The Government are working with key stakeholders, drawing on their expertise, to establish which options will best support parents to meet the costs of childcare in the future within or alongside universal credit. Details of the new proposal will be set out shortly.

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department paid in *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs and *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against his Department in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled in each of the last three years. [54634]

Justine Greening: The Department has not incurred any costs for damages in the last three years. Details of payments made in relation to claimant costs and defendant costs for civil claims brought against the Department during the past three years are set out in the following table.

			£
	Financial year		
Nature of payment	*2010-11*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*
Claimant costs	—	270,000.00	—
Defendant costs	171,361.72	447,874.28	208,898.87
Total sum paid out	171,361.72	717,874.28	208,898.87

Devolution: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what matters were discussed during his meeting with the First Minister on 23 May 2011; and what his policy is on the Scottish Government's request to *(a)* bring forward and increase borrowing powers under the Scotland Bill, *(b)* devolve the Scottish Crown Estate and *(c)* devolve corporation tax to the Scottish Parliament. [57899]

Danny Alexander: UK Government Ministers held a series of constructive meetings with the First Minister of Scotland on 23 and 24 May, at which a range of matters were discussed. Any further announcements will be made to Parliament in due course in the context of Scotland Bill.

Devolution: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he received requests for meetings from *(a)* members of the Welsh Government or *(b)* the Secretary of State for Wales between 6 May and 20 May 2011 to discuss public expenditure in Wales. [57467]

Danny Alexander: Treasury Ministers and officials regularly meet with representatives from a wide range of organisations in the public and private sector. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Double Taxation: Israel

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the UK-Israel convention on double taxation is applied to *(a)* income tax and *(b)* company tax levied by Israel on individuals or companies based in settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories or the Golan Heights. [57958]

Mr Gauke: The 1962 Double Taxation Convention between the UK and Israel does not apply to individuals or companies in the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories or the Golan Heights.

Financial Services Compensation Scheme

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reason is for the time taken to commence the review of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. [57922]

Mr Hoban: It is essential that the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) is able to pay out compensation to all eligible policyholders. Without certainty of payout, consumer protection is substantially weakened. It is therefore vital that the FSCS is able to raise resources in a range of circumstances to compensate consumers effectively.

The rules governing the FSCS are set by the Financial Services Authority (FSA), which has commenced a review of the funding model of the FSCS. They will proceed to a formal consultation and cost benefit analysis once discussions on European directives affecting compensation arrangements have been concluded and the Government's policy on the future role of the FSCS in the context of reform of the regulatory architecture for financial services has been settled.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions he has had with the Financial Services Authority on the potential effect on insurance brokers of the increase in the levy for the Financial Services Compensation scheme; [58046]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effects on insurance brokers of the increased levy under the Financial Services Compensation scheme. [58141]

Mr Hoban: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 126W.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Jason McCartney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much accrued to the Exchequer from empty property business rates in the last 12 months. [57952]

Mr Gauke: The Government do not hold information on the amount of business rates raised from empty properties in England.

The Government publish data on empty property rate relief, received by owners of empty non-domestic properties. The latest figures can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1824788.xls

Revenue and Customs: Complaints

Damian Hinds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) received on the operation of HMRC in respect of (i) service levels, (ii) timeliness of response, (iii) clarity of communications and (iv) other matters; and what categories are used to classify such complaints. [56387]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs maintains a complaints database to help the Department understand why complaints are made and act to address this. Within the database, complaints are assigned to one of the following core categories: delay, staff conduct, process/system, policy/legislation, communication, misleading advice, loss/damage, mistake/error, compensation/costs claim and discrimination. HMRC categorises complaints when they are resolved, rather than when they are received.

For the year 2010-11 HMRC resolved 76,438 complaints of which 22,185 were categorised as 'delay' and 10,632 were categorised as 'communication'. HMRC does not categorise complaints under a heading of "service levels".

Smuggling: Northern Ireland

Mr Donaldson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints HM Revenue and Customs has received on the use of vehicle stop and search powers in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years and how many such complaints have been upheld. [55769]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 16 May 2011]:* No complaints have been received in Northern Ireland in the last four years as a result of our stop and search powers.

Mr Donaldson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations HM Revenue and Customs received from political parties in Northern Ireland *(a)* in the 12 months prior to and *(b)* during its review of vehicle stop and search powers. [55770]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 16 May 2011]:* HMRC received one MP's letter for NI which was in December 2010 from the right hon. Member asking about the cessation of our stop and search powers in Northern Ireland.

Mr Donaldson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many detections HM Revenue and Customs made as a result of the use of vehicle stop and search powers in each of the last five years. [55771]

Mr Gauke: In the period April to October 2010, 41 detections were made as a result of the stop and search powers in Northern Ireland. The use of the powers was suspended in October 2010.

Mr Donaldson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse incurred in training HM Revenue and Customs officers in Northern Ireland in the use of vehicle stop and search powers in each of the last five years. [55772]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 16 May 2011]:* Costs for training HMRC officers in the use of stop and search powers in NI over the last five years were £4,200. These were incurred in 2009-10 and no other expenditure has been incurred on this training in the last five years.

VAT: Insurance

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the future of the exemption from value added tax for outsourced insurance-related services in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [53111]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* Discussions concerning an EU Commission Proposal that would modernise the VAT exemption for financial and insurance services have taken place at the Council of Ministers Working Party level for several years and are continuing under the Hungarian presidency. These have included the issue of the VAT treatment of outsourcing in the insurance sector. The matter was discussed by Ministers as part of an overall orientation debate on the dossier at the November 2010 ECOFIN.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Politics and Government

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Burmese Government following reports of a breach of the ceasefire agreement with the Shan State Army; and if he will make a statement. [57978]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are deeply concerned by the reported breakdown of a ceasefire agreement with the Shan State Army North (now known as the Shan State Progress Party/Shan State Army) that has led to renewed conflict in Shan State. Our ambassador to Rangoon raised the issue of the ongoing conflict with the Burmese Government on 10 May 2011 underlining the importance of a political solution. Senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials made the same point to the Burmese Ambassador to the UK on 5 May 2011. We continue to monitor the situation and urge the Burmese Government to engage in genuine dialogue with ethnic groups and work towards a peaceful solution.

Departmental Equality

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a public address on diversity in his Department. [57297]

Mr Bellingham: In line with our obligations under the Equality Act 2010, the Department will be publishing diversity information by 31 December 2011.

Lord's Resistance Army

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Governments of *(a)* the Democratic Republic of Congo, *(b)* Uganda and *(c)* Rwanda on the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army. [57289]

Mr Bellingham: We have regularly discussed the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) with key partners, including the Governments of Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda and UN Peacekeeping Operations in the region. These discussions, which have taken place bilaterally, at the International Working Group (IWG) on the LRA and at the UN Security Council, have been with a view to helping to improve co-ordination amongst those countries and organisations that are working to reduce the threat posed by the LRA to civilians in the region.

Discussions have covered the joint military effort to pursue the remaining LRA units in DRC, Central African Republic and South Sudan; work by UN agencies on disarming, demobilising and repatriating LRA combatants; and the work of UN agencies and non-governmental organisations to provide humanitarian relief to LRA-affected areas.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his Ugandan counterpart the treatment of the opposition leader Kizza Besigye and unarmed civilians during recent protests in that country. [57851]

Mr Bellingham: I have directly raised the UK's concerns over the Ugandan authorities' handling of the ongoing opposition protests with Foreign Minister Sam Kutesa. Our High Commission in Kampala, along with other EU member state missions, has raised our concerns directly with President Museveni. Our High Commission has also raised concerns with the Ugandan Prime Minister and Inspector General of Police.

The UK and its partners have urged the Ugandan authorities to respect their peoples' constitutionally guaranteed rights to peaceful exercise of the freedoms of speech and assembly, and that the police should respond proportionally to instances of unrest amongst demonstrators.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Manpower

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff were employed in each directorate of his Department in 2009-10. [57907]

Mr Paterson: The number of staff employed by the Northern Ireland Office in 2009-10 is recorded in the departmental report for this period. The information can be found on page 13 of the Report. We do not hold information on the number of staff recorded by directorate in 2009-10.

http://www.nio.gov.uk/nio-pubs-search-results?start=20&category=Departmental_Reports&keyword=&order=date&submitbutton.x=17&submitbutton.y=9

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of staff at the Northern Ireland Office at each grade were transferred to the Department of Justice Northern Ireland *(a)* before, *(b)* on and *(c)* since 12 April 2010. [57906]

Mr Paterson: The information is as follows:

(a) No members of staff were transferred into the Department of Justice before it took legal effect on 12 April 2010.

(b) The number of Department of Finance and Personnel (Northern Ireland) staff seconded to the Northern Ireland Office prior to devolution and who subsequently transferred to the Department of Justice NI at devolution is:

Grade	*Number of staff*
SCS	24
Grade 7/A	75
Grade DP/B1	112
Grade SO/B2	196
Grade C/EO	240
Grade AO/D1	318
Grade AA/D2	110
Non-general service grades	649
NIPS Uniform grades	1879

(c) The number of staff at the Northern Ireland Office who have transferred to the Department of Justice NI since 12 April 2010 is:

Grade	*Number of staff*
SCS	1
Grade 7/A	3
Grade DP/B1	3
Grade SO/B2	4
Grade C/EO	7
Grade AO/D1	3
Grade AA/D2	7

Prison Service: Manpower

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions the Secretary of State has had with the Board of Directors of the Prison Service Trust in Northern Ireland in the last two years on the establishment of a Garden of Remembrance dedicated to the memory of prison office staff who gave their lives in the course of the troubles. [57852]

Mr Paterson: Since my appointment, I have not had any discussions with the Board of Directors of the Prison Service Trust in Northern Ireland with regard to this matter.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Standards

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has plans to make the data generated by real time information equipment supported by Bus Service Operators Grant available to *(a)* the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and *(b)* the Traffic Commissioners for the purposes of overseeing service performance. [58015]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport is currently undertaking an initial information gathering exercise by contacting bus operators claiming the Bus Service Operators Grant Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) incentive to determine what data are available and in what format.

The Department has not yet requested data generated by the Bus Service Operators Grant AVL incentive and will produce a note of why it needs any data requested after this initial information gathering stage and will set out in writing how these data will be collected, used and protected.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officers the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency made available for monitoring the performance of bus services in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. [58016]

Mike Penning: The figures as at the end of April 2011 are as follows:

	Number
Scotland	4
North East/North West	3
West Midlands	1
Wales	3
Western	1
South East	1
Eastern	1

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of *(a)* buses and *(b)* coaches were subject to prohibition notices as a result of (i) announced and (ii) unannounced checks by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in each of the last five years. [58017]

Mike Penning: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) does not record PSV prohibition figures based on announced and unannounced encounters. There is also no split of the information between buses and coaches. However the following information for all PSVs is held:

		Percentage
	Fleet checks at operators premises	*Roadside Checks*
2010-11	15.3	19.2
2009-10	14.8	23.4
2008-09	13.2	20.4
2007-08	15.0	19.9
2006-07	14.4	17.0

Note:

Some fleet checks at operators' premises will be announced but it is not possible to determine the proportion.

Great Western Railway Line

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for journey time improvements to the Great Western main line between south Wales and London other than by electrification; and if he will make a statement. [57688]

Mrs Villiers: The new fleet of trains procured by the Intercity Express programme will reduce journey times from Cardiff to London Paddington by seventeen minutes and Swansea to London Paddington by 20 minutes. The journey time reductions are a result of the trains' faster acceleration, shorter station dwell times and a revised service pattern, and are not caused by electrification as such.

Furthermore, because modern trains accelerate very much faster, Network Rail is reviewing whether any speed limits along the line of route might be increased so as to maximise the benefit of this improved acceleration.

Pedestrian Crossings

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when guidance for local authorities on the introduction of *(a)* school, *(b)* pedestrian and *(c)* light-controlled pedestrian crossings was last published; and whether he has any plans to publish revised guidance. [57456]

Norman Baker: Guidance on school crossing patrols is published by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA). The School Crossing Patrol Service Guidelines were last updated in 2010 and are reviewed annually.

The Department published guidance on the introduction of pedestrian crossings in 1995 in Local Transport Note (LTN) 1/95: The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings, and LTN 2/95: The Design of Pedestrian Crossings.

Detailed guidance on puffin crossings was published in 2006 in the Puffin Good Practice Guide. These may be revised in the future as a result of the Traffic Signs Policy Review.

Traffic Commissioners: Manpower

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many support staff were available to *(a)* the Senior Traffic Commissioner and *(b)* individual traffic commissioners in the latest period for which figures are available. [58014]

Mike Penning: The budget for the Office of the Traffic Commissioner and Licensing for 2011-12 is 177.25 members of staff of which 166.24 are in post. These are distributed as follows:

(a) there is one member of staff available to the Senior Traffic Commissioner;

(b) there are 82.46 staff based in the Central Licensing Office in Leeds to whom all Traffic Commissioners (TCs) have access. There are a further 57.92 staff in the traffic area offices as follows:

Scotland	[1]11.40
North Eastern	6.40
North western	12.4
Wales and the Midlands	7.32
Western	11.40
Eastern	9.00
South East and Metropolitan	7.65

[1] Some dealing with devolved issues.

In addition to the above there are the following staff:

Scottish parking appeals	4
Driver conduct	6.51
Traffic Commissioner personal secretaries	4.2
International Road Freight Office	2.5.

Transport: EU Action

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of his response to the European Commission on the EU White Paper on Transport. [58018]

Mrs Villiers: The European Commission has not requested a response on the EU Transport White Paper. There will be a debate on the White Paper at the June Transport Council. I will report on the outcome of that Council to Parliament.

Transport: Finance

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 32W, on transport: finance, when he intends to publish up-to-date business case information for Highways Agency major schemes; and if he will make a statement. [57885]

Mike Penning: Following the Secretary of State for Transport's announcement in October 2010 and his commitment to publish the business case for each scheme, the business cases for each individual scheme were published on 30 December 2010 and are available to view on the Highways Agency website. The Department for Transport's website has also published guidance to help the public understand the business cases and how they were used to make ministerial decisions.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Dogs and Horses

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average daily feed cost for *(a)* dogs and *(b)* horses in the service of the armed forces was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [57874]

Mr Robathan: The information is not held in the format requested.

Chinook Helicopters

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of procuring the new Chinook helicopters referred to in the strategic defence and security review. [57492]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 7 June 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence is currently in discussion with Boeing in preparation for the main investment decision point for the 12 new and two replacement Chinooks announced as part of the strategic defence and security review. The cost to the public purse will not be confirmed until the contract is signed. We will announce any significant procurement decisions to Parliament in the usual way.

Departmental Land

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects a decision to be made on the future of his Department's base at Bordon. [57298]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 75-76W, to the hon. Member for Vale of Glamorgan (Alun Cairns).

As a current technical training site, Bordon is one of locations under consideration by the Defence technical training change programme. However, I hope to be able to announce the future of the base at Bordon before the summer recess.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department expects to spend on the *(a)* Joint Strike Fighter Autonomic Logistics, *(b)* Joint Strike Fighter Autonomic Logistics Global Sustainment System, *(c)* Joint Strike Fighter Autonomic Logistics Information System, (d) Joint Strike Fighter Air Vehicles and (e) Joint Strike Fighter Lightning II Pilot and Maintenance Training Systems. [57711]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 392W. The total cost of the component systems of the Joint Strike Fighter will be determined when the main investment decision point is made. Publishing such details at this early stage would undermine the Department's commercial position.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 785, on Libya, which countries have provided military advisers to assist the opposition forces. [57931]

Nick Harvey: The United Kingdom has deployed a team of military advisers to mentor the National Transitional Council, improving their ability to protect civilians and civilian populated areas. The French and Italian Governments have both stated publicly that they have deployed military advisers to Libya. The release of information pertaining to deployments by other international partners is a matter for those nations concerned.

Tornado Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems his Department *(a)* plans to install and *(b)* has installed on the GR4 Tornado; [57876]

(2) if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of installing the Helmet Mounted Cueing System on the GR4 Tornado. [57877]

Peter Luff: I am withholding information about the fitting of a Helmet Mounted Cueing System (HMCS) to Tornado GR4 aircraft as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. The cost of the Tornado GR4 HMCS programme is just over £11 million.

SCOTLAND

Crown Relocations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many contracts his Department holds with Crown Relocations; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58635]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not hold any contracts with Crown Relocations.

EU Council of Ministers

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether any agreement on enabling Scottish Government Ministers to sit on the EU Council of Ministers was reached at the meetings between the UK Government and the First Minister of Scotland on 23 and 24 May 2011. [57901]

Michael Moore: UK Government Ministers held a series of constructive meetings with the First Minister of Scotland on 23 and 24 May, at which a range of matters were discussed. As part of the United Kingdom, Scotland has strong representation at European Council meetings. The UK Government look favourably on all requests from the devolved Administrations to attend and speak at European Council meetings, where devolved matters are to be discussed.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* the Scottish Government on the Scottish Government's request that the Scottish Parliament should control the level of excise duty paid on alcohol in Scotland. [57900]

Michael Moore: I have regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues on a range of matters affecting Scotland. At my meeting with the First Minister for Scotland on 12 May, we discussed a range of matters relating to the Scotland Bill.

Serco

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many contracts his Department holds with Serco; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58653]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not hold any contracts with Serco.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Overseas Aid

10. **Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the amount to be spent on overseas aid in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2014-15. [57748]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: UK Official Development Assistance as a proportion of gross national income will be 0.56% in 2011 and 2012. The Government are fully committed to delivering 0.7% of GNI as ODA from 2013 and will enshrine this commitment in law, in line with the coalition agreement.

Fair Trade Procurement

11. **Steve Rotheram:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on fair trade procurement. [57749]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) encourages the procurement of fairly traded products. For instance all tea and coffee available for sale to DFID staff in the UK are either Rain Forest Alliance or Fairtrade certified. The provision and promotion of ethical produce forms part of the specification for our catering services.

Aid Workers: Misrata

12. **Nic Dakin:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to assist aid workers in Misrata. [57750]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: During the two month siege of Misrata by Gaddafi's forces, the UK provided essential support to humanitarian organisations. This included food, medical supplies and personnel. We also supported the evacuation of 5,000 people stranded at the port.

Climate Change

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to mitigate the effects of climate change in developing countries. [57743]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) will support those exposed to extreme weather events—floods, droughts and famines—to prepare and protect themselves. We will also support developing countries to invest in low carbon growth while reducing poverty

EU Aid

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of British overseas aid was channelled through EU institutions in the last year for which figures are available. [58238]

Mr O'Brien: In 2009-10 financial year, 18% of UK spend on development was channelled through European Union institutions; this amounted to £1.42 billion.

Libya: International Assistance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the UN Secretary-General on post-conflict resolution planning and delivery of humanitarian aid to Libya; and if he will make a statement. [57968]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I met the UN Secretary-General at the end of March at the London Libya Conference. I welcomed his leadership on the co-ordination of humanitarian assistance and supported his role in post-conflict planning to bring stability to Libya once a political settlement is in place.

The UK recognises that there are immediate stabilisation needs that must be addressed in the interim. We have therefore deployed a stabilisation response team to conduct an assessment of interim needs and help underpin the international stabilisation effort in Libya.

We will continue to work closely with the United Nations, including through the Secretary-General's special adviser on post-conflict planning in Libya and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Co-ordinator, and their teams. The UK is supporting the UN-led international effort to deliver immediate humanitarian assistance to those affected by the conflict, and to work towards a better future for the Libyan people.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

British Constitution: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he received a request from *(a)* members of the Welsh Government or *(b)* the Secretary of State for Wales between 6 May and 20 May 2011 to meet to discuss constitutional issues. [57464]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I meet the Secretary of State regularly to discuss Government business including constitutional issues. I am due to meet the First Minister at the Joint Ministerial Committee meeting on 8 June and at the British Irish Council summit in London on 20 June.

Diamond Jubilee 2012: Urban Areas

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how many panel members will determine the outcome of the Diamond Jubilee City Status competition; [57870]

(2) what process he plans to follow to assess entries in the Diamond Jubilee City Status competition. [57871]

Mr Harper: As was made clear in the publicity material which accompanied the launch of the competition, responsibility for advising Her Majesty on civic honours and other royal matters rests with the Deputy Prime Minister and Lord President of the Council, assisted by the Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform. The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), is responsible for co-ordinating the Government's involvement in the diamond jubilee. Other Ministers who will be involved as appropriate include the Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), the Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Shropshire (Mr Paterson) and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles).

The contents of the applications received will be assessed 'in the round' and on their individual merits. As a royal prerogative matter relating to honours the process will remain confidential, as will Ministers' conclusions until the results are announced. The Queen's decision, made on ministerial advice, will be final and no reasons will be given for applicants' success or failure in the competitions. Local authorities will be sent brief comments on their entries when the decisions are announced.

CABINET OFFICE

Big Society Bank

Chris Leslie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate his Department has made of the financial return on investment that banks lending on commercial terms through the big society bank will receive. [58233]

Mr Hurd: Four UK banks have agreed to invest £200 million into the big society bank subject to its business plan and on a commercial basis.

Now that the outline proposal for the BSB has been agreed by Government, negotiations are under way on the terms of the investment. The banks are committed to investing in a way that is compatible with the big society bank's mission is to help grow a sustainable social investment market and achieve returns against a double bottom line of social and financial impact. The exact terms of this investment have yet to be finalised.

Charitable Donations: Schools

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the White Paper on giving, what assessment he has made of the role of the Speakers for Schools programme to play in the promotion of the policies outlined in the White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [58351]

Mr Hurd: The aim of 'Speakers for Schools' is to encourage inspirational, high-profile figures from a range of backgrounds to speak for free in state schools—giving them access to the sorts of networks which private schools have. In recognition that Government can do much to lead the way in this agenda, both in terms of demonstrating commitment to giving their time and by inspiring others to do the same, all members of the Cabinet have signed up to the scheme, which is non-political, and already has significant cross-party support.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Theft

Keith Vaz: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many thefts from the parliamentary estate have been reported in each month from May 2010 to May 2011. [57934]

John Thurso: The following table indicates the number of reported incidents involving theft on the parliamentary estate between May 2010 and May 2011:

	Number of reported thefts
2010	
May	0
June	2
July	3
August	0
September	0
October	0
November	4
December	2
2011	
January	7
February	2
March	6
April	9
May	16

Keith Vaz: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many cases of theft from the parliamentary estate were reported in each year since 2006; and what items were reported stolen. [57935]

John Thurso: The following table details the number of thefts reported and detail of items stolen by year. It should be noted that multiple items may have been stolen in one incident of reported theft.

	Total number of thefts reported	*Detail of item reported stolen*
2006	13	1x sim card 1x copier paper 1x lights 1x shoes 1x clock 1x CD rewriter 1x flowers 2x laptop 1x mobile phone 1x cash 1x dictaphone 1x personal property
2007	8	1x wallet 1x laptop

	Total number of thefts reported	*Detail of item reported stolen*
		1x rug 1x bottle of whisky 1x cable drum 1x purse 1x doorkeeper's badge 2x cash
2008	11	3x cash 1x camera 1x candlestick 1x set of golf clubs 1x mobile phone 1x set of chairs 1x coat 1x laptop 1x pedal cycle
2009	15	1x sat-nav 6x cash 1x wallet 1x computer wire 4x mobile phone 1x letters 1x tax disc
2010	19	5x cash 1x orchid 1x bag 2x laptop 1x camera 1x purse 1x MP3 player 1x computer 1x microphone 1x knife 3x mobile phone 1x iPod nano 1x hard drive
2011	40	2x computer 25x laptop 1x coat 2x cash 1x charm 1x keys 1x sat-nav 1x iPod 3x mobile phone 1x watch 1x camera 1x iPad 1x wallet 1x camcorder

HOME DEPARTMENT

Foreign Travel Orders

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign travel orders issued to prevent a registered sex offender from travelling abroad have been issued in the last three years. [57697]

Lynne Featherstone: The number of foreign travel orders that have been issued by the police to registered sex offenders can be found in the 2009-10 Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Annual Report which was published on 27 October 2010. The figures run from 2005-06 to 2009-10 as of 31 March 2010.

http://www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2011/DEP2011-0045.pdf

Human Trafficking

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people referred to the National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking are being accommodated in the prison estate. [57696]

Damian Green: There are currently nine people in the prison estate whose case is in the process of being considered within the National Referral Mechanism.

Crown Prosecution Service prosecutors must consider a range of circumstances to conclude whether the public interest is best served in continuing the prosecution of defendants charged with offences who might be trafficked victims. Where the potential victim of trafficking raises trafficking for the first time when in prison, it is open to their legal representative to make an application to the courts for leave to appeal conviction and sentence.

Human Trafficking: EU Law

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department plans to transpose into UK law the provisions of the EU directive on human trafficking. [57698]

Damian Green: The Government will shortly be applying to the European Commission to formally opt in to the EU directive on human trafficking. If our application is accepted, we will consider the necessary legislative requirements thereafter, subject to the parliamentary timetable.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to respond to the letter of 4 April 2011 from the hon. Member for Walsall North about a constituent, reference M7095/11; [53790]

(2) with reference to the interim reply of 3 May 2011, reference M7095/11, when she plans to provide a substantive response to the letter of 4 April 2011 from the hon. Member for Walsall North; [55441]

(3) pursuant to the holding replies of 3 May 2011 to question 53790 and 13 May 2011 to question 55441 on ministerial correspondence, when she plans to provide a substantive response to the letter of 4 April 2011,

reference M7095/1, from the hon. Member for Walsall North; what the reason is for the continued delay of a substantive reply; and what the average time taken for a ministerial response to letters from hon. Members was in the latest period for which figures are available. [57734]

Nick Herbert *[holding answers 3 May and 13 May 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to my letter of 31 May 2011. A copy will be placed in the House Library.

Police: Manpower

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers of each rank and *(b)* sergeants in charge of safer neighbourhood teams were in post in each (i) police authority area and (ii) London borough command area in (A) May 2010 and (B) May 2011; what estimate she has made of the numbers to be in those posts on 1 April 2015; and if she will make a statement. [57985]

Nick Herbert: Data relating to police officer strength by rank and to police officers predominantly employed in the neighbourhood function as at 31 March 2010 in England and Wales are given in Tables A and B respectively. Figures for Metropolitan and London city police officer strength as at 31 March 2010, by basic command unit (which in London relate to boroughs), are provided on Tables C and D respectively. The information on police officer functions and basic command units cannot centrally be broken down by rank.

The Home Office does not collect data on future estimates of police numbers.

Police personnel statistics for 31 March 2011 are expected to be published in July 2011.

Table A: Police officer strength as at 31 March 2010, in England and Wales, by police force area and rank, England and Wales

Full-time equivalents[1]

Police force	*ACPO rank*	*Chief Superintendent*	*Superintendent*	*Chief Inspector*	*Inspector*	*Sergeant*	*Constable*	*Total ranks*
Avon and Somerset	6	9	25	52	181	492	2,537	3,302
Bedfordshire	4	5	12	20	64	179	962	1,246
Cambridgeshire	3	7	13	30	88	253	1,077	1,471
Cheshire	4	5	16	26	118	362	1,624	2,155
Cleveland	4	4	10	24	84	247	1,351	1,724
Cumbria	4	4	7	18	59	183	963	1,238
Derbyshire	4	9	15	24	100	313	1,610	2,074
Devon and Cornwall	5	10	34	30	183	609	2,685	3,556
Dorset	4	6	12	25	89	240	1,110	1,486
Durham	3	8	11	17	84	225	1,159	1,507
Essex	5	10	23	44	147	527	2,850	3,606
Gloucestershire	4	7	12	21	67	203	994	1,309
Greater Manchester	6	22	55	101	365	1,169	6,430	8,148
Hampshire	5	13	25	55	194	634	2,821	3,748
Hertfordshire	5	8	17	37	112	328	1,622	2,130
Humberside	4	8	17	32	115	330	1,552	2,058
Kent	7	15	26	69	184	530	2,956	3,787
Lancashire	5	11	21	49	196	620	2,747	3,649
Leicestershire	4	8	14	31	110	373	1,777	2,317
Lincolnshire	3	6	9	12	65	179	932	1,206
London, City of	3	5	11	21	56	144	612	852
Merseyside	6	15	32	58	233	639	3,534	4,516
Metropolitan Police	37	86	217	475	1,695	6,069	24,788	33,367
Norfolk	5	7	15	17	97	284	1,236	1,662
Northamptonshire	4	6	13	25	67	220	1,008	1,343
Northumbria	5	13	31	51	174	600	3,314	4,187
North Yorkshire	4	5	10	16	83	250	1,118	1,486
Nottinghamshire	4	9	21	37	126	410	1,802	2,409
South Yorkshire	4	11	25	38	155	459	2,260	2,953
Staffordshire	4	7	16	27	97	377	1,634	2,161
Suffolk	4	4	12	25	76	223	902	1,246
Surrey	4	12	18	32	107	286	1,430	1,890
Sussex	5	11	16	53	184	543	2,401	3,213
Thames Valley	4	11	35	59	204	685	3,437	4,434
Warwickshire	4	4	11	15	51	135	753	973
West Mercia	5	10	14	35	122	408	1,797	2,391
West Midlands	6	27	44	73	360	1,156	6,960	8,626
West Yorkshire	6	20	42	79	289	809	4,513	5,758

Table A: Police officer strength as at 31 March 2010, in England and Wales, by police force area and rank, England and Wales

Full-time equivalents[1]

Police force	*ACPO rank*	*Chief Superintendent*	*Superintendent*	*Chief Inspector*	*Inspector*	*Sergeant*	*Constable*	*Total ranks*
Wiltshire	4	6	10	18	73	196	875	1,181
Dyfed-Powys	3	6	9	17	67	190	903	1,195
Gwent	3	5	13	20	77	228	1,091	1,437
North Wales	4	5	19	17	81	279	1,185	1,590
South Wales	6	13	22	52	179	520	2,355	3,148
Total of all 43 forces	223	473	1,029	1,974	7,258	23,109	109,669	143,734

[1] This table contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items

Table B: Police officers predominantly employed in neighbourhood[1, 2] *functions (FTE)*[3, 4] *in England and Wales as at 31 March 2010*

	Number of police officers
Avon and Somerset	293
Bedfordshire	100
Cambridgeshire	166
Cheshire	468
Cleveland	251
Cumbria	[5]—
Derbyshire	186
Devon and Cornwall	334
Dorset	138
Durham	170
Dyfed-Powys	79
Essex	486
Gloucestershire	97
Greater Manchester	992
Gwent	363
Hampshire	469
Hertfordshire	239
Humberside	142
Kent	325
Lancashire	376
Leicestershire	348
Lincolnshire	96
London, City of	65
Merseyside	739
Metropolitan Police	895
Norfolk	337
Northamptonshire	213
Northumbria	573
North Wales	164
North Yorkshire	[5]—
Nottinghamshire	312
South Wales	390
South Yorkshire6	345
Staffordshire	309
Suffolk	138
Surrey	185
Sussex	251
Thames Valley	484
Warwickshire	157
West Mercia	283
West Midlands	1782
West Yorkshire	1871
Wiltshire	29

[1] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for individual chief constables.

[2] In 2008-09 'Foot/Car/Beat/Patrol' was replaced by 'Neighbourhoods' and 'Response'.

[3] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[4] Available information on functions cannot be centrally broken down by rank.

[5] Data not available centrally.

Table C: Police officer strength[1, 2] *Metropolitan police force area, by Basic Command Unit, 31 March 2010*[1]

	Number of officers
Barking and Dagenham	448
Barnet	596
Bexley	406
Brent	712
Bromley	524
Camden	889
City of Westminster	1,656
Croydon	755
Ealing	728
Enfield	601
Greenwich	711
Hackney	784
Hammersmith and Fulham	600
Haringey	734
Harrow	404
Havering	395
Hillingdon	526
Hounslow	540
Islington	719
Kensington and Chelsea	579
Kingston upon Thames	337
Lambeth	1,042
Lewisham	691
Merton	396
Newham	826
Redbridge	502
Richmond upon Thames	335
Southwark	964
Sutton	356
Tower Hamlets	829
Waltham Forest	578
Wandsworth	619
Heathrow	461

Table C: Police officer strength[1, 2] *Metropolitan police force area, by Basic Command Unit, 31 March 2010*[1]

	Number of officers
Central Services	12,126
Total	33,367

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks.
[2] Available information on Basic Command Units cannot be centrally broken down by rank.

Table D: Police officer strength[1, 2]*, City of London police force area, by Basic Command Unit, 31 March 20101*

	Number of officers
City of London Police	308
Central Services	544
Total	852

Police: Termination of Employment

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 422W, on police: termination of employment, what regulation required police forces to issue leavers with a certificate showing *(a)* final rank and *(b)* the period of service in that force and in any other force prior to the enactment of Regulation 17 of the Police Regulations 2003. [57910]

Nick Herbert: The equivalent provision that was in effect immediately before the commencement of Regulation 17 of the Police Regulations 2003 was Regulation 19 of the Police Regulations 1995, which came into force on 8 March 1995 and was revoked by the 2003 Regulations with effect from 1 April 2003.

Public Houses: Crime

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions police officers attended incidents at *(a)* pubs, *(b)* night clubs and *(c)* non-profit making private members' clubs in the last year for which figures are available. [57894]

Nick Herbert: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Road Traffic Offences: Fixed Penalties

Damian Collins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many graduated fixed penalty notices for foreign vehicles have been issued by the Central Roads Policing Department in *(a)* Kent and *(b)* Shepway district in the last 12 months. [58213]

Nick Herbert: The requested data are not collected centrally. While data on fixed penalty notices are collected and published in chapter 3 of the annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Police Powers and Procedures", data that identify foreign vehicles are not part of that collection.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Fossil Fuels

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Wimbledon of 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 10W, on fossil fuels, what proportion of UK energy demand has been met from fossil fuel sources in each year since 2008. [58539]

Charles Hendry: The volume and proportion of UK energy demand met from fossil fuel sources since 2008 is shown in the following table.

Million tonnes of oil equivalent

	2008		*2009*		*2010*	
	Volume	*Proportion (percentage)*	*Volume*	*Proportion (percentage)*	*Volume*	*Proportion (percentage)*
Coal	38.0	16.9	31.2	14.8	32.4	14.9
Petroleum	75.1	33.3	71.2	33.7	70.5	32.4
Natural gas	93.0	41.3	85.9	40.7	93.1	42.8
Total all fossil fuels	206.1	91.4	188.3	89.2	195,9	90.0

Figures for 2008 were revised in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2010 and therefore differ from those provided in the answer given on 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 10W.

Natural Gas: Exploration

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent advice he has received on the effect of hydraulic fracturing in the production of shale gas on levels of water pollution. [58321]

Charles Hendry: The UK has a long history of onshore gas exploration, the technology—including hydraulic fracturing—is understood and there is a strong regulatory safety and environmental regime in place administered by the Health and Safety Executive, local authorities and the respective environmental agencies to ensure that potential risks to safety or the environment are properly managed.

In relation to the current shale gas drilling operations I understand that the Environment Agency does not consider that these pose a risk to the environment—including to water resources.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will review the implications of recent seismic tremors near Blackpool for his policy on onshore drilling for unconventional gas. [58306]

Charles Hendry: Following the recent seismic tremors, the Department had discussions with the operator, Cuadrilla, and agreed that a pause in operations is appropriate so that a better understanding can be gained of the cause of the seismic events experienced in Poulton-le-Fylde. A geomechanical study is being undertaken, along with further work by the British Geological Survey and Keele university. The implications of this information will be reviewed before any resumption of hydraulic fracture operations is approved.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 885W, on natural gas: exploration, if he will meet *(a)* the Health and Safety Executive and *(b)* the environment agencies to discuss the implications for unconventional gas extraction of recent seismic tremors reported near Blackpool. [58307]

Charles Hendry: The Department is involved in a continuous dialogue with the HSE and environment agencies in relation to unconventional gas extraction in the UK. A geomechanical study is being undertaken to look at the recent seismic tremors near Blackpool. The results of the study will be considered by the Department in consultation with the HSE and environment agencies.

Offshore Industry

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what representations he has received from oil and gas companies on levels of production in the UK Continental Shelf in each of the next four financial years; [58422]

(2) what evidence he has received from oil and gas companies on levels of production in the UK Continental Shelf in each of the next four financial years; [58423]

(3) if he will estimate the level of imports into the United Kingdom of *(a)* oil and *(b)* gas in each of the next four financial years. [58425]

Charles Hendry: The Department regularly receives detailed field-by-field data on current and forecast production from the current operators of each field. Based on the data received, twice a year the Department produces and publishes projections of oil and gas production by calendar year; estimates are not made for financial years. Tables and charts showing the Department's latest projections are at:

https://www.og.decc.gov.uk/information/bb_updates/chapters/Section4_17.htm

The table at the end of the note includes estimates of net oil and gas imports each year.

Offshore Industry: Taxation

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether discussions at *(a)* ministerial and *(b)* official level were held between his Department and the Treasury prior to the announcement of changes to the oil and gas tax regime in the 2011 Budget. [58828]

Charles Hendry: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), and I have regular discussions with Treasury colleagues on a range of issues, and officials have regular contacts with their opposite numbers.

Ofgem

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 26-28WS, on the Ofgem review: summary of conclusions, what consideration he has given to the merits of setting energy efficiency as a strategic goal to which Ofgem should contribute. [58376]

Charles Hendry: The content of the new Strategy and Policy Statement, including the policy outcomes that Ofgem should contribute to, will be considered as part of a formal drafting process. This will include consultation with all interested parties.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 26-28WS, on the Ofgem Review: summary of conclusions, what timetable he has set for the development of his strategic policy framework for the energy sector. [58617]

Charles Hendry: The new strategy and policy statement will require primary legislation before it can come into force. We will therefore introduce it as soon as parliamentary time allows.

HEALTH

Care Quality Commission

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average caseload was of compliance inspectors in the Care Quality Commission as at 1 April *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [58077]

Mr Simon Burns: The following information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission:

The average caseload was around 50 locations per compliance inspector as at 1 April 2010.

The average caseload was 62 locations per compliance inspector as at 1 April 2011.

Note:

Figures based on filled posts which is an interim position pending recruitment.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest caseload was of a compliance inspector in the Care Quality Commission as at 1 April 2011. [58078]

Mr Simon Burns: The following information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission:

The highest of the average regional caseloads of compliance inspectors was 70 locations[1] as at 1 April 2011.

The lowest of the average regional caseloads of compliance inspectors was 56 locations[1] as at 1 April 2011.

Regional case loads expressed are averages. On 1 April London had an average caseload of 70 locations per inspector, which was the highest. The lowest average caseload for a region was 56 in the east midlands.

[1] Figures based on filled posts which is an interim position pending recruitment.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP practices the Care Quality Commission will be responsible for regulation of from 2012; and what estimate the Care Quality Commission has made of the number of additional registration assessors and compliance inspectors that will be required to deal with any new work. [58080]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) estimates that approximately 8,500 general practitioner practices will be required to register with the Commission.

In terms of delivering its regulatory functions, the CQC is an independent body and it is therefore for the CQC to determine the staffing complement it requires in order to carry out its functions efficiently and effectively.

The following information has been provided by the CQC:

> The CQC is currently reviewing its core processes with a view to refining its methods, guidance and processes in the light of experience and lessons learned from 1 April 2010 to date. The CQC therefore anticipates that some of the ways in which it regulates in respect of methods and guidance will change following completion of this review. It is not possible to estimate numbers of registration assessors and compliance inspectors that will be needed in the future until completion of this review.
>
> The CQC's priority remains that, where it has evidence of a risk to quality and safety, it will deploy resources to react swiftly and take appropriate action.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many days training on the new regulation methodology Care Quality Commission assessors and inspectors have received on average; and what evaluation the Care Quality Commission has made of the quality of such training. [58081]

Mr Simon Burns: The following information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC):

> From April 2010 to date, compliance inspectors received an average of 22 days training. Registration assessors received an average of 17 days.
>
> Managers have pre-training discussions with their staff to agree training objectives. Following training, the CQC's Learning and Development team receives feedback from trainers, staff and managers on the content, relevance and presentation of training.
>
> Following training, staff take learning back into the work place as practical application. Changes and improvements to practice are monitored through performance and development review, and staff 1:1 processes. Additional support for the practical application of training is provided through peer group discussions about best practice and application and a local buddy system. Work is nationally and locally quality checked against standards.
>
> The CQC has made improvements to the process for obtaining feedback on training through performance and development review discussions, and to identify the training gaps that exist.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what professional support he expects the Care Quality Commission inspectors to receive from *(a)* dental and *(b)* medical advisors to assist them in inspecting dental and GP services. [58083]

Mr Simon Burns: In terms of delivering its regulatory functions, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) is an independent body and it is therefore responsible for determining what professional support and input are required in order to undertake its functions efficiently and effectively.

The following information has been provided by the CQC:

> The CQC has access to a team of national professional advisers and policy experts who work across a range of types of health and social care services. This team includes a variety of clinical and social care professionals and those with policy expertise in a variety of areas. National professional advisors include a general practitioner (GP), a surgeon, a nurse (who also covers midwifery), a radiologist, a dentist, and a social care professional.
>
> The dental practitioner acts as an adviser for the development of training and is available for post-training advice and support.
>
> The GP is currently involved in the planning and development of training for sector overview, registration and monitoring of compliance. Further GP involvement regarding post-training advice and support has not been determined as yet.
>
> National professional advisers support compliance inspectors and are often involved in the planning for site visits. They also play an important role in the CQC assurance processes, including the monthly outliers panel and the Safeguarding Committee.
>
> In the event that the CQC does not have the relevant expertise, the national professional advisors will seek to identify an external expert through contacts such as the relevant Royal Colleges.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many site inspections the Care Quality Commission carried out in each quarter of the year to 1 April 2011; and what estimate the Care Quality Commission has made of the number of site inspections it will carry out in each quarter of 2011-12. [58084]

Mr Simon Burns: The following information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The following table shows the number of site visits completed by the CQC in each quarter of the financial year April 2010 to March 2011. The CQC brought forward a number of inspections into quarter 1 in order to have accurate information for the registration of services under the Health and Social Care Act 2008. Site visits undertaken on a risk basis to check declarations made during the registration process may not be captured in the table.

Period	*Number of site visits*
1 April 2010 to 30 June 2010	3,570
1 July 2010 to 30 September 2010	353
1 October 2010 to 31 December 2010	570
1 January 2011 to 31 March 2011	1,972
Total	6,465

The CQC's methodology does not prescribe a set frequency for visits. In line with the principles of risk-based regulation, the CQC carries out visits in line with its judgment of risk when these are the most effective way of gathering information about compliance. This means the CQC targets its resources on providers where the risk is highest, while reducing the regulatory burden on providers where the risk is low.

Across its regulatory scope, the CQC has capacity to undertake 15,000 to 20,000 responsive reviews over a one-year period, the vast majority of which it anticipates to include a site visit. This does not reflect the full extent of its site visit regime.

Site visits will therefore take place wherever necessary and it is not possible to predict the number which will take place in each quarter of the year 2011 to 2012.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the potential effects on *(a)* patients and *(b)* service users and *(c)* the public of the Care Quality Commission's plans to reduce the number of planned reviews it carries out. [58085]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is responsible for delivering its regulatory functions and determining what reviews it needs to undertake for the purposes of carrying out these functions.

The following information has been provided by the CQC.

The CQC undertook 1,411 compliance reviews (956 planned and 455 responsive) between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011. The CQC has not announced plans to reduce the number of planned reviews.

Implementation of the new registration system has resulted in lower levels of reviews for a period as resources have been concentrated on bringing providers (particularly national health service and primary dental care providers) into the new regulatory framework.

The CQC expects general practitioner registration to have an impact on the number of reviews undertaken but anticipates having a clearer picture by the end of the current operating year (ending 31 March 2012) of the level at which reviews will settle.

The CQC's priority remains that where it has evidence of a risk compromising quality and safety, it will deploy resources to react swiftly and take appropriate action.

Health and Social Care Bill

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will visit Brighton Pavilion constituency to hear the views of members of the public on the Health and Social Care Bill at a public meeting. [57476]

Mr Simon Burns: In April 2011, the Government announced that they would take advantage of a natural break in the legislative process to 'pause, listen, and reflect'on people's concerns with a view to bringing forward improvements to the Health and Social Care Bill.

As part of the listening exercise the health ministerial team along with members of the NHS Future Forum, have visited every region in the country to listen to views of the public, staff and patients. Members of the public have also been able to have their say via the NHS modernisation website:

http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/

We do not have any immediate plans to visit the Brighton area to discuss the Health and Social Care Bill in the coming weeks.

Sexual Assault

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many sexual assault referral centres there are in *(a)* England and *(b)* North Yorkshire. [58070]

Anne Milton: There are 31 sexual assault referral centres in England. Three more are planned to open this year. A further nine are under development in a number of police force areas, including one in North Yorkshire.

Air Ambulance Services

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on support for air ambulance services. [58125]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department recognises that air ambulances play an important role in delivering emergency care, especially in rural areas and where road access is a problem. The air ambulances that operate across the country provide an effective means of ensuring better and faster access to hospitals and of supporting transfers between hospitals.

However, the Department works on the basis that NHS services are best provided and managed by commissioners and providers locally, working closely with their clinicians and key partners, with central Government intervening only when there is a clear need for national action. We believe that the local national health service is in the best position to make decisions about pre-hospital care in each area, including the use and funding of air ambulances.

Community Hospitals: Eltham

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects the contract to build a new community hospital in Eltham to be let for tender; and if he will make a statement; [57854]

(2) what date he has set for the opening of a new community hospital in Eltham; and if he will make a statement; [57855]

(3) if he will assess the effects of staffing reductions at Greenwich Teaching Primary Care Trust on the ability of the Trust to *(a)* plan, monitor and develop health services in the borough and *(b)* progress development of a new community hospital in Eltham; and if he will make a statement. [57856]

Mr Simon Burns: It is for the local national health service to plan and provide services to meet the health needs of its local population. NHS London advises my officials that Greenwich Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT) is currently working with its construction partner the Bromley, Bexley and Greenwich construction company to prepare a Stage 1 Outline Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) business case for approval both by the Greenwich Clinical Commissioning Committee and joint PCT boards in July 2011. I understand that the local NHS will be keeping the hon. Member informed of progress and is happy to answer any questions he has regarding this project.

Dental Health: Children

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in improving children's dental health in *(a)* England and *(b)* Northamptonshire since May 2010. [58239]

Mr Simon Burns: We are committed to introducing a new dental contract based on capitation, registration and quality, with the aim of improving oral health, especially that of children. Dental contract pilots, which will test aspects of the new contract, are about to become operational. In addition, to reinforce the benefits of the contractual changes, we are exploring how general dental practices can develop closer links to primary schools, and we have included rates of dental decay among five year old children in "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: proposals for a public health outcomes framework". Dental practices in Northamptonshire, where there is already support on oral health promotion for children and young adults, will be well placed to take advantage of these changes.

Diabetic Specialist Nurses

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on the number of diabetic specialist nurses under his proposed reforms to the NHS; [57987]

(2) how many diabetic specialist nurses were employed by the NHS in the latest period for which figures are available. [57988]

Mr Simon Burns: The current number of diabetic specialist nurses employed by the national health service is not collected centrally.

It is for local NHS organisations, with their knowledge of the health needs of their local population to train and recruit the staff needed to best meet these needs.

We do hold information on the number of qualified nursing, midwifery and health—visiting staff employed by the NHS, which is available from the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care annual workforce census, however the speciality requested is not collected separately.

The Centre for Workforce Intelligence has been commissioned by the Department to undertake a review of non-medical speciality training later this year. This will look at demand and supply modelling at a national level for each non-medical speciality.

On the 6 April, the Prime Minister launched the NHS Listening Exercise, one of the focuses of which was education and training. This is an opportunity to pause, listen, reflect and improve the NHS reforms. The Government will respond to this in due course.

Epilepsy: Research

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research to examine the reasons for the difference between the rate of the UK and the median rate for the EU-15 in respect of epilepsy mortality. [57397]

Paul Burstow: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is responsible for the funding of medical research in the United Kingdom. Working through its council, scientific boards, and committees, the MRC is independent in its choice of which research to support. Research proposals are stringently peer reviewed by a core of scientific experts and other external expert referees both in the UK and abroad.

General Practitioners

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements he plans to put in place to ensure meetings and decisions taken by GP commissioners are open and transparent to the public following the implementations of his NHS reforms. [57921]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to the passing of the Health and Social Care Bill, and the outcome of the current listening exercise, we propose that the constitution of each commissioning consortium should set out its arrangements for decision-making and managing potential conflicts of interest. General practitioner (GP) consortia would also be required to hold an annual general meeting and this would be open to anyone.

We also propose clear statutory duties on commissioners in relation to procurement and in relation to anti-competitive behaviours. A clear set of underpinning rules and guidance would be developed to apply to GP consortia, so that they have the necessary support to make decisions that are fair and transparent and avoid any perceived conflicts of interest.

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to address any inequality between urban and rural provision of medical and care services when establishing GP consortia. [58034]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to the passing of the Health and Social Care Bill and the outcome of the current listening exercise, there will be a duty on the NHS Commissioning Board and commissioning consortia that they must in the exercise of their functions have regard to the need to reduce inequalities between patients in access to health services and in the outcomes achieved from health services.

In addition, the NHS Commissioning Board will take over responsibility for the allocation of resources from the Department. It would be for the Board to decide how best to allocate resources in a way that supports the principle of securing equivalent access to NHS services relative to the prospective burden of disease and disability.

During the transition to the Board, the Secretary of State for Health has asked the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA), an independent committee comprising general practitioners, academics and NHS managers, to continue to oversee the formulae for the distribution of NHS resources. ACRA's work programme will include consideration of the issue of rurality in light of the move to allocations to commissioning consortia.

General Practitioners: Telephone Services

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of compliance by general practitioners with his Department's guidance on the use of premium line telephone numbers for use by patients; and if he will make a statement. [57920]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has made no assessment of the level of compliance of the Directions regarding the use of 084 numbers in the national health service. It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure that local practices are compliant with the Directions and guidance.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to GPs on the use of 0844 numbers for patients seeking appointments; and if he will make a statement. [58000]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department issued guidance and directions to the national health service on 21 December 2009 which stated NHS bodies and general practitioner practices should not enter into new, renew, or extend, contracts for telephone services unless they can be satisfied that patients will not pay more than they would to make equivalent calls to a geographical number.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure that local practices are compliant with the directions and guidance.

HealthWatch: Freedom of Information

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons local HealthWatch bodies are not to be covered by the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [58066]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to the parliamentary process, local HealthWatch organisations will be public-facing bodies and will need to be transparent to its local communities. The Department is considering adding local HealthWatch organisations to the schedule of the Freedom of Information Act.

Hospitals: Consultants

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to put in place arrangements to ensure NHS consultants are prevented from establishing their own companies as part of his NHS reforms. [57925]

Mr Simon Burns: We have no such plans. National health service consultants are required to adhere to a Code of Conduct for Private Practice, which includes provisions governing the relationship between NHS work and other work.

Injuries: Young People

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he has made in implementing the draft guidance developed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on strategies to prevent unintentional injuries among children and young people aged under 15. [57712]

Anne Milton: The Department of Health is developing policies that will contribute to injury prevention. These will be developed in partnership with other Departments and organisations. For example, the Department for Education has recently announced the funding of Safe Network, a consortium including the Child Accident Prevention Trust, to provide advice and assistance on the full range of safeguarding issues, including injury prevention.

The "Healthy Child programme: Pregnancy and the first five years of life" includes training for families on the correct use of basic safety equipment and to raise awareness of accident prevention in the home and safety in cars. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

The Department for Transport has also published a new Strategic Framework for Road Safety on 11 May 2011 which sets out the way forward for road safety over the coming years. It covers all road users including children.

James Kingsland

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the work conducted by Dr James Kingsland for his Department is subject to a contractual agreement. [58235]

Mr Simon Burns: Dr James Kingsland has undertaken work under contract with the Department as lead for the National Clinical Commissioning Network, which has focused on practice-based commissioning and the proposed commissioning reforms.

Lung Cancer

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many chest x-rays were requested by GPs for the purposes of diagnosis of suspected lung cancer *(a)* in each primary care trust and *(b)* in England in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what proportion of such x-rays confirmed the diagnosis. [57944]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is not centrally held. Currently the Department collects only annual data on the total numbers of x-rays undertaken, broken down by provider. As set out in "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", the Department is currently working to develop a new data collection which will include the collection of data on the number of chest x-rays requested by general practitioners.

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the 30-day mortality rate for patients with a diagnosis of lung cancer who received a major surgical resection was *(a)* in respect of each provider, *(b)* in each cancer network and *(c)* in each strategic health authority in the last five years for which figures are available. [57945]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is not centrally held. The National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) recently conducted a study of the 30-day mortality rates for patients with a diagnosis of bowel cancer who received a major surgical resection. Further information about the study is available on the NCIN website at:

www.ncin.org.uk/cancer_type_and_topic_specific_work/cancer_type_specific_work/postoperative_mortality.aspx

Following this analysis of the 30-day postoperative mortality for bowel cancer, the NCIN proposes to work with clinical leads across all tumour sites to see where this study can be repeated.

National Association of Primary Care

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on the National Association of Primary Care of the work of Dr James Kingsland for his Department. [58236]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not assessed the effects on the National Association of Primary Care of the work of Dr James Kingsland for the Department.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Association of Primary Care has received any funding from his Department in the last 18 months for which figures are available. [58237]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Association of Primary Care has received funding from the Department in the last 18 months for a range of projects and sponsorships including those aimed at improving engagement with frontline clinicians.

National Clinical Director

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will appoint a national clinical director for allied health professionals with responsibilities equivalent to those of the Director of Nursing and Chief Nursing Officer. [57916]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill published on 19 January 2011 sets out details about the membership of the NHS Commissioning Board. We are using the natural break in the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill to pause, listen, reflect on, and improve national health service modernisation plans.

The Board itself will determine its own appointments but will include people with a range of skills and experience.

National Commissioning Board

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to enable the expertise of allied health professionals to be available to the National Commissioning Board. [57969]

Mr Simon Burns: As part of the NHS listening exercise, we are considering clinical input to commissioning at all levels, including the NHS Commissioning Board. Both the report of the Future Forum and the Government response will be published in due course.

Neuromuscular Services

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made by the NHS South East Coast Specialised Commissioning Group in reviewing neuromuscular services in the region; and if he will make a statement. [57513]

Paul Burstow: This is a matter for the national health service locally. We have been advised by the South East Coast strategic health authority that the South East Coast Specialised Commissioning Group (SECSCG), which commissions neuromuscular services on behalf of the region, has now completed its review. The review's findings have been published in a report entitled "Better Co-ordination; Better Care—A review of services for people with Neuromuscular Conditions in the South East Coast" which is available on the SECSCG's website at:

www.secscg.nhs.uk/home/news

Following the review, initiatives are underway throughout the South East Coast region to implement its recommendations. These include programmes to improve access to, and join up, services for people with neuromuscular disease. Work is also underway to provide a care pathway coordinator post to provide advice and information for patients and carers, by September 2011.

NHS: Negligence

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS Litigation Authority paid *(a)* on average to successful claimants (i) in total and (ii) for medical reports in cases of clinical negligence in each of the last three years and *(b)* on average in respect of its own costs (A) in total and (B) in respect of medical reports in each such year. [58019]

Mr Simon Burns: The information to show how much the National Health Service Litigation Authority (NHSLA) paid on average to successful claimants in total in cases of clinical negligence in each of the last three years and on average in respect of its own costs in total is in the following table.

Number of clinical negligence claims closed with damages 2008-09 to 2010-11

£

Year of closure	*Damages paid*	*Average damages*	*Defence costs paid*	*Average defence costs*	*Claimant costs paid*	*Average claimant costs*
2008-09	278,038,411	93,114	35,916,879	12,028	95,911,592	32,120
2009-10	267,332,564	71,137	38,491,431	10,243	112,528,769	29,944
2010-11	499,478,033	94,976	59,664,874	11,345	192,481,953	36,600
Total	1,044,849,007	87,049	134,073,184	11,170	400,922,313	33,402

Number of clinical negligence claims settled as periodical payments 2008-09 to 2010-11

£

Year of settlement	*Total damages*	*Average damages*	*Defence costs paid*	*Average defence costs*	*Claimant costs paid*	*Average claimant costs*
2008-09	552,136,757	4,214,784	17,207,984	131,359	38,403,070	293,153
2009-10	504,736,479	3,943,254	13,712,666	107,130	34,043,228	265,963
2010-11	547,337,006	4,210,285	12,830,840	98,699	21,748,248	167,294

Number of clinical negligence claims settled as periodical payments 2008-09 to 2010-11

£

Year of settlement	Total damages	Average damages	Defence costs paid	Average defence costs	Clamant costs paid	Average claimant costs
Total	1,604,210,242	4,123,934	43,751,490	112,472	94,194,546	242,145

Notes:

1. Periodical payment orders (PPOs) that have ongoing payments have been included separately and the figure provided is as though they were settled on a lump sum basis.

2. Some of the defence costs and claimant costs not have been finalised yet and so the costs, payment figures and average costs payment figures may be understated.

3. It is not possible to show specific costs for medical records as the NHSLA does not record costs in this level of detail.

Source:

National Health Service Litigation Authority (May 2011)

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many settled claims funded by legal aid and brought against the NHS Litigation Authority were brought on behalf of a minor in each of the last three years; what proportion of all legally-aided claims that figure represents in each such year; and how much was paid out *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average in each such year. [58020]

Mr Simon Burns: The information to show how many settled claims funded by legal aid and brought against the NHS Litigation Authority that were brought on behalf of a minor in each of the last three years is in the following tables:

Number of clinical negligence claims funded by legal aid closed 2008-09 to 2010-11

	Legally aided claims on behalf of a minor			*All legally aided claims*			*Legally aided claims on behalf of a minor as % of all legally aided claims*		
Year of closure	*Settled nil damages*	*Settled with damages*	*Total*	*Settled nil damages*	*Settled with damages*	*Total*	*Settled nil damages*	*Settled with damages*	*Total*
2008-09	244	313	557	598	994	1,592	41	31	35
2009-10	251	349	600	573	1,068	1,641	44	33	37
2010-11	264	454	718	629	1,373	2,002	42	33	36
Total	759	1416	1,875	1,800	3,435	5,235	42	32	36

Number of clinical negligence claims funded by legal aid and settled as periodical payments 2008-09 to 2010-11

Year of settlement	*Legally aided claims on behalf of a minor*	*All legally aided claims*	*Legally aided claims on behalf of a minor as % of all legally aided claims*
2008-09	104	126	83
2009-10	100	107	93
2010-11	101	116	87
Total	305	349	87

Total value of clinical negligence claims funded by legal aid closed 2008-09 to 2010-11

	Legally aided claims on behalf of a minor			*All legally aided claims*		
Year of closure	*Number settled with damages*	*Total payments (damages + costs) (£)*	*Average total payments (£)*	*Number settled with damages*	*Total payments (damages + costs) (£)*	*Average total payments (£)*
2008-09	313	144,984,359	463,209	994	242,190,356	243,652
2009-10	349	106,465,010	305,057	1,068	196,185,439	183,694
2010-11	454	193,153,391	425,448	1,373	376,956,348	274,549
Total	1,116	444,602,760	398,390	3,435	815,332,143	237,360

Total value of clinical negligence claims funded by legal aid and settled as periodical payments 2008-09 to 2010-11

	Legally aided claims on behalf of a minor			*All legally aided claims*		
Year of settlement	*Number of claims*	*Total damages + costs paid (£)*	*Average total damages + costs paid (£)*	*Number of claims*	*Total damages + costs paid (£)*	*Average total damages + costs paid (£)*
2008-09	104	521,565,382	5,015,052	126	579,971,849	4,602,951
2009-10	100	475,373,847	4,753,738	107	492,964,405	4,607,144
2010-11	101	507,527,119	5,025,021	116	547,988,200	4,724,036

Total value of clinical negligence claims funded by legal aid and settled as periodical payments 2008-09 to 2010-11

	Legally aided claims on behalf of a minor			All legally aided claims		
Year of settlement	*Number of claims*	*Total damages + costs paid (£)*	*Average total damages + costs paid (£)*	*Number of claims*	*Total damages + costs paid (£)*	*Average total damages + costs paid (£)*
Total	305	1,504,466,348	4,932,677	349	1,620,924,454	4,644,483

Note:
For periodical payment orders (PPOs) total damages have been added as if the claim had settled on a lump sum basis to the actual costs payments.
Source:
National Health Service Litigation Authority (May 2011)

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS Litigation Authority paid in damages to successful claimants in each of the last three years; and how many and what proportion of cases in which the authority paid damages to claimants in each such year were settled or lost *(a)* at trial and *(b)* within six weeks of trial. [58021]

Mr Simon Burns: The information to show how much the NHS Litigation Authority paid in damages to successful claimants in each of the last three years is in the following tables.

Number of clinical negligence claims closed with damages 2008-09 to 2010-11

Year of closure	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid (£)*
2008-09	2,986	278,038,411
2009-10	3,758	267,332,564
2010-11	5,259	499,478,033
Total	12,003	1,044,849,007

Number of clinical negligence claims settled as periodical payments 2008-09 to 2010-11

Year of settlement	*Number of claims*	*Total damages(£)*
2008-09	131	552,136,757
2009-10	128	504,736,479
2010-11	130	547,337,006
Total	389	1,604,210,242

Notes:
1. Data in relation to how many and what proportion of cases in which the authority paid damages to claimants in each year were settled or lost *(a)* at trial and *(b)* within six weeks of trial can be provided only at disproportionate cost.
2. Data on damages pertaining to date of settlement can be provided only at disproportionate cost.
Source:
NHS Litigation Authority May 2011

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of *(a)* all legally aided claims and *(b)* all claims brought by minors were made to the NHS Litigation Authority on behalf of a minor and funded through legal aid in each of the last three years. [58022]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on legally aided claims brought by minors as a percentage of all legally aided claims received by year is shown in the following table provided by the NHS Litigation Authority.

Number of clinical negligence claims funded by legal aid received 2008-09 to 2010-11

	Legally aided claims on behalf of a minor	*All legally aided claims*	*Legally aided claims on behalf of a minor as percentage of all legally aided claims*
2008-09	520	1,532	34
2009-10	446	1,341	33
2010-11	414	1,333	31
Total	1,380	4,206	33

Source:
National Health Service Litigation Authority (May 2011)

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid in legal costs by the NHS Litigation Authority to successful claimants in each of the last three years; what proportion of such payments were in respect of *(a)* base claimants' costs, *(b)* success fees and *(c)* disbursements in each such year; and in respect of the cases in which claimants costs were paid in each of the last three years, what the number and proportion of cases that were settled or lost (i) at trial and (ii) within six weeks of trial as a proportion of cases in which the Authority paid costs to claimants in each of those years. [58023]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

NHS: Personal Injury Claims

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total recovered by the NHS was in respect of recovery of treatment costs in personal injury claims for each case type in each of the last three financial years; how many cases this represented in each case type in each such year; and what the total costs were that were not recovered as a result of the maximum cap on recovery. [58002]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is in the following tables:

1: NHS Recoveries by liability type

			£
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Clinical negligence	180,440	607,134	1,341,236
Employer	5,960,820	13,661,251	17,710,402
Motor	123,351,651	130,673,295	131,352,977
Other	225,610	340,993	581,020
Public	5,259,012	12,633,411	18,012,614
Liability not yet known	23,091	62,137	51,933

1: NHS Recoveries by liability type

			£
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Total	135,000,624	157,978,221	169,050,181

2: Volume of NHS Recovery payments by liability type

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Clinical negligence	64	218	475
Employer	7,636	15,942	20,171
Motor	145,564	151,439	147,244
Other	161	324	467
Public	6,354	13,962	18,947
Liability not yet known	25	63	71
Total	159,804	181,948	187,375

3: Total costs not recovered as a result of the maximum cap on recovery

	£
2008-09	10,500,891
2009-10	9,827,847
2010-11	10,153,651

Notes:

1. and 2. The data reflect the total value of NHS Recoveries (including Ambulance Charges) received by the Compensation Recovery Unit (CRU) relating to the NHS Injury Costs Recovery scheme for Trusts in England between 1 April 2008—31 March 2011 and the volume of cases these recoveries relate to. More than one payment may be received per case and each is counted separately. Cases where no payment was made are not included.

Data are shown by year of payment.

3. The data reflect the total In Patient costs that were not recovered as a result of the maximum cap on recovery relating to Trusts in England. This reflects cases where a final settlement has been received within the relevant financial year, the NHS charges have been fully recovered, the maximum cap has been reached and the difference between the overall treatment costs and recovery value calculated.

NHS Chaplaincy Services

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of NHS chaplaincy services. [57959]

Paul Burstow: The Department recognises the important role played by chaplains in supporting the national health service to deliver patient-centred services. The second phase of the independent Palliative Care Funding Review has asked for views on which core components of dedicated palliative care, including spiritual care, should be funded, wholly or partly, by the NHS as a statutory responsibility and which by society. Ministers will consider the recommendations of the review when they receive its final report, which is expected this summer.

Passive Smoking: Children

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to protect children from exposure to passive smoke. [57996]

Anne Milton: The Government's Tobacco Control Plan for England, "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Tobacco Control Plan for England", published on 9 March 2011, sets out a range of Government action, including action to protect children from exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke.

Although the exposure of children to second-hand tobacco smoke has come down in recent years, we want this to reduce further. We want smokers to change their behaviour so as to make sure that they do not harm those around them, particularly children exposed to second-hand in the home or in family cars. We will work with national media to raise awareness of the risks in exposing children to second-hand smoke.

The Department's new marketing strategy for tobacco control, which will be published this summer, will set out further details of how we will support efforts to encourage people to recognise the risks of second-hand smoke and to make their homes and private cars smokefree.

A copy of the Tobacco Control Plan has already been placed in the Library.

Primary Care Trusts: Manpower

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff were employed in each primary care trust in *(a)* administrative and *(b)* frontline service posts in (i) May 2010 and (ii) May 2011; and if he will make a statement. [57857]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table gives the number of staff in the groups requested in 2010 and 2011. The information was taken from the NHS Information Centres annual workforce census for the years requested.

NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in England and in primary care trusts (PCTs) by main staff group as at 30 September each specified year[1]

							Headcount
		2009			*2010*		
		All NHS Staff	*All frontline staff*	*NHS infrastructure support*	*All NHS Staff*	*All frontline staff*	*NHS infrastructure support*
England		1,277,459	1,040,992	236,103	1,176,313	942,615	233,342
of which							
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	5HG	1,720	1,188	532	1,674	1,153	521
Barking and Dagenham PCT	5C2	722	517	205	153	35	118
Barnet PCT	5A9	1,341	1,022	319	1,261	971	290
Barnsley PCT	5JE	2,368	1,762	605	2,438	1,826	612
Bassetlaw PCT	SET	485	336	149	499	347	152

NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in England and in primary care trusts (PCTs) by main staff group as at 30 September each specified year[1]

Headcount

		2009			2010		
		All NHS Staff	*All frontline staff*	*NHS infrastructure support*	*All NHS Staff*	*All frontline staff*	*NHS infrastructure support*
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	5FL	1,140	922	218	1,101	889	212
Bedfordshire PCT	5P2	1,444	1,070	366	1,466	1,079	387
Berkshire East PCT	5QG	1,218	1,059	159	1,212	1,032	180
Berkshire West PCT	5QF	1,681	1,366	315	1,761	1,419	342
Bexley Care Trust	TAK	622	501	121	153	27	126
Birmingham East and North PCT	5PG	2,290	1,573	717	2,400	1,615	785
Blackpool PCT	5HP	856	657	199	835	619	216
Bolton PCT	5HQ	1,865	1,413	452	1,895	1,423	472
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	SQN	1,212	1,018	190	1,149	981	164
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	5NY	2,561	2,018	542	2,582	2,059	523
Brent Teaching PCT	5K5	864	575	289	873	571	302
Brighton and Hove City PCT	5LQ	192	12	180	205	15	190
Bristol PCT	5QJ	1,662	1,032	630	1,670	1,014	656
Bromley PCT	5A7	1,182	939	243	1,079	838	241
Buckinghamshire PCT	5QD	1,802	1,380	418	340	151	188
Bury PCT	5JX	1,021	668	353	1,009	646	363
Calderdale PCT	5J6	712	461	251	779	504	275
Cambridgeshire PCT	5PP	2,914	2,471	436	369	71	298
Camden PCT	5K7	1,381	742	639	1,410	709	701
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	5NP	2,007	1,582	425	1,919	1,547	372
Central Lancashire PCT	5NG	2,849	2,100	749	2,733	1,986	747
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	5C3	1,076	833	243	1,073	794	279
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	SQP	2,760	2,137	603	2,873	2,229	623
County Durham PCT	5ND	687	57	630	503	69	434
Coventry Teaching PCT	5MD	1,619	1,261	358	1,665	1,341	324
Croydon PCT	5K9	1,070	738	332	290	79	211
Cumbria Teaching PCT	5NE	2,541	1,941	600	2,452	1,887	565
Darlington PCT	5J9	2,719	2,367	352	2,952	2,466	486
Derby City PCT	5N7	1,185	718	467	988	682	306
Derbyshire County PCT	5N6	5,072	3,213	1,856	5,003	3,453	1,548
Devon PCT	5QQ	4,076	3,152	924	3,793	2,838	955
Doncaster PCT	5N5	1,756	1,294	462	1,692	1,206	486
Dorset PCT	5QM	3,037	2,199	838	3,102	2,224	878
Dudley PCT	5PE	1,485	1,036	449	1,478	989	489
Ealing Pa	5HX	1,250	881	369	1,234	879	355
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	5NH	2,729	1,949	780	2,615	1,837	778
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	5NW	1,343	1,083	251	1,263	1,028	229
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	5P7	1,666	1,236	430	1,686	1,220	466
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	5QA	4,196	3,239	957	4,197	3,232	965
Enfield PCT	5C1	966	689	277	900	613	287
Gateshead PCT	5KF	920	782	138	2,706	2,287	419
Gloucestershire PCT	5QH	3,320	2,837	483	3,262	2,813	449

NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in England and in primary care trusts (PCTs) by main staff group as at 30 September each specified year[1]

Headcount

		2009			2010		
		All NHS Staff	*All frontline staff*	*NHS infrastructure support*	*All NHS Staff*	*All frontline staff*	*NHS infrastructure support*
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	5PR	884	683	201	925	738	187
Greenwich Teaching PCT	5A8	898	690	208	912	601	311
Halton and St Helens PCT	5NM	1,835	1,390	445	1,768	1,311	457
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	5H1	659	456	203	209	100	109
Hampshire PCT	5QC	3,774	2,989	785	3,627	2,857	770
Haringey Teaching PCT	5C9	775	623	152	830	677	153
Harrow PCT	5K6	546	376	170	535	373	162
Hastings and Rother PCT	5P8	899	728	169	944	783	161
Havering PCT	5A4	1,871	1,412	459	1,790	1,393	397
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	5MX	1,489	1,097	392	1,569	1,147	422
Herefordshire PCT	5CN	1,646	1,110	536	1,603	1,258	345
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	5NQ	1,225	907	318	1,182	870	312
Hillingdon PCT	5AT	744	576	168	849	666	183
Hounslow PCT	5HY	656	545	111	117	14	103
Hull Teaching PCT	5NX	1,420	1,038	382	1,095	772	323
Isle of Wight NHS Pa	5QT	3,418	2,902	516	3,499	2,960	539
Islington PCT	5K8	1,101	826	275	1,114	841	273
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	SLA	843	574	269	2,461	2,091	370
Kingston PCT	5A5	594	461	133	99	28	71
Kirklees PCT	5N2	1,653	1,231	422	1,503	1,095	408
Knowsley PCT	5J4	1,189	1,136	342	1,456	1,124	322
Lambeth PCT	5LD	1,047	736	311	1,046	708	338
Leeds PCT	5N1	3,799	2,794	1,005	3,612	2,615	997
Leicester City PCT	5PC	1,477	977	500	1,150	945	205
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	5PA	3,176	2,207	955	3,204	2,151	1,037
Lewisham PCT	5LF	936	697	239	680	468	212
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	5N9	3,050	2,232	797	3,532	2,635	875
Liverpool PCT	5NL	3,223	1,968	1,255	3,109	1,862	1,247
Luton PCT	5GC	734	548	175	740	547	1B3
Manchester PCT	5NT	2,893	1,925	968	3,043	2,031	1,012
Medway PCT	5L3	1,609	1,209	400	1,659	1,174	485
Mid Essex PCT	5PX	1,309	997	312	1,293	958	335
Middlesbrough PCT	5KM	255	37	218	219	31	188
Milton Keynes PCT	5CQ	1,543	1,199	344	1,574	1,176	398
Newcastle PCT	5D7	1,646	1,222	424	320	30	290
Newham PCT	5C5	1,303	1,025	278	1,240	951	289
Norfolk Pa	5PQ	3,524	2,893	624	3,235	2,693	539
North East Essex PCT	5PW	1,617	1,267	350	1,304	974	330
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	TAN	1,701	1,258	438	1,602	1,151	446
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	SNF	1,793	1,257	536	2,147	1,652	495
North Lincolnshire PCT	5EF	602	481	121	567	441	126
North Somerset PCT	5M8	603	417	186	642	435	207

NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in England and in primary care trusts (PCTs) by main staff group as at 30 September each specified year[1]

Headcount

		2009			*2010*		
		All NHS Staff	*All frontline staff*	*NHS infrastructure support*	*All NHS Staff*	*All frontline staff*	*NHS infrastructure support*
North Staffordshire PCT	5PH	1,301	912	389	1,253	874	379
North Tyneside PCT	5D8	723	652	69	2,175	1,902	273
North Yorkshire and York PCT	5NV	4,489	3,482	996	4,633	3,655	966
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	5PD	3,466	2,902	549	2,641	2,039	589
Northumberland Care Trust	TAC	1,611	1,300	311	1,640	1,306	334
Nottingham City PCT	5EM	1,666	1,297	369	1,665	1,311	354
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	5N8	3,492	2,392	1,092	3,395	2,343	1,044
Oldham PCT	5J5	1,188	878	310	1,263	935	328
Oxfordshire PCT	5QE	2,703	2,332	371	2,810	2,457	353
Peterborough PCT	5PN	1,511	1,189	322	1,444	1,135	309
Plymouth Teaching PCT	5F1	2,495	1,819	672	2,513	1,829	680
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	5FE	2,813	2,036	777	684	38	646
Redbridge PCT	SNA	465	277	188	420	233	187
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	5QR	1,176	1,071	101	1,186	1,064	117
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	5M6	645	500	145	1,196	1,019	177
Rotherham PCT	5H8	1,805	1,201	604	1,699	1,154	545
Salford PCT	5F5	1,726	1,202	524	1,829	1,274	555
Sandwell PCT	5PF	1,498	1,046	452	1,423	969	454
Sefton PCT	5NJ	1,566	954	612	1,520	926	594
Sheffield PCT	5N4	2,405	1,947	458	2,432	1,987	445
Shropshire County PCT	5M2	1,261	916	345	1,234	895	339
Solihull Care Trust	TAM	1,660	1,344	316	1,698	1,447	251
Somerset PCT	5QL	2,643	1,980	663	2,779	2,093	686
South Birmingham PCT	5M1	3,766	3,020	746	3,753	2,948	805
South East Essex PCT	5P1	1,123	861	254	1,188	884	297
South Gloucestershire PCT	5A3	714	575	139	718	581	137
South Staffordshire PCT	5PK	2,469	2,130	339	2,437	2,109	328
South Tyneside PCT	5KG	772	604	168	184	5	179
South West Essex PCT	5PY	2,044	1,664	379	2,123	1,655	468
Southampton City PCT	5L1	1,957	1,725	232	3,990	3,629	361
Southwark PCT	5LE	907	677	230	850	611	239
Stockport PCT	5F7	1,346	892	454	1,274	831	443
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT	5E1	187	36	151	214	40	174
Stoke on Trent PCT	5PJ	2,034	1,555	479	2,006	1,561	445
Suffolk PCT	5PT	2,133	1,727	400	2,201	1,790	404
Sunderland Teaching PCT	5KL	1,653	936	717	518	39	479
Surrey PCT	5P5	4,188	3,458	723	3,891	3,169	713
Sutton and Merton PCT	5M7	1,130	920	210	1,092	894	198
Sutton and Merton PCT	5M7	1,130	920	210	1,092	894	198
Swindon PCT	5K3	897	722	175	811	657	154

NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in England and in primary care trusts (PCTs) by main staff group as at 30 September each specified year[1]

Headcount

		2009			*2010*		
		All NHS Staff	*All frontline staff*	*NHS infrastructure support*	*All NHS Staff*	*All frontline staff*	*NHS infrastructure support*
Tameside and Glossop PCT	5LH	1,268	935	333	1,198	890	308
Telford and Wrekin PCT	5MK	906	549	357	889	553	336
Torbay Care Trust	TAL	1,395	971	421	1,340	905	435
Tower Hamlets PCT	5C4	2,014	1,514	500	1,889	1,282	607
Trafford Pa	5NR	909	733	176	857	668	189
Wakefield District PCT	5N3	1,647	1,403	244	1,661	1,412	249
Walsall Teaching PCT	5M3	1,379	1,023	356	1,363	1,017	346
Waltham Forest PCT	5NC	148	14	134	140	20	120
Wandsworth PCT	5LG	1,635	1,115	520	321	141	180
Warrington Pa	5J2	1,010	800	210	923	733	190
Warwickshire Pa	5PM	1,939	1,454	485	1,967	1,509	458
West Essex Pa	5PV	1,177	876	301	1,206	870	336
West Kent Pa	5P9	2,314	1,665	649	2,245	1,572	673
West Sussex Pa	5P6	3,738	2,632	1,092	3,769	2,657	1,100
Western Cheshire PCT	5NN	1,390	938	452	1,165	770	395
Westminster PCT	5LC	1,211	1,026	185	303	89	214
Wiltshire PCT	5QK	2,277	1,747	530	2,214	1,699	515
Wirral PCT	5NK	1,760	1,295	465	1,745	1,332	413
Wolverhampton City PCT	5MV	2,600	1,998	602	2,616	2,035	581
Worcestershire PCT	5PL	2,691	2,212	179	2,689	2,210	479

[1] The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the Census publication here: www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/010_Workforce/nhsstaff0010/Census_Bulletin_March_2011_Final.pdf

Data are from the annual September Census. Comparable May data are not available for the requested years.

Notes:

1. Frontline NHS staff (Including medical and dental staff, nursing staff, ambulance staff and support staff) have some significant contact with patients. Frontline staff excludes NHS infrastructure support staff, who have little significant or no patient contact. A small number of staff whose classification is unknown have also been excluded.

2. NHS infrastructure support staff includes administrative senior managers, managers, clerical staff, human resources, finance, information technology, and other areas of work which do not involve patient contact.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many former primary care trust employees have been re-employed or redeployed in preparation for the implementation of GP commissioning in each primary care trust area; and if he will make a statement. [57858]

Mr Simon Burns: Primary care trust (PCT) staff numbers are reducing in accordance with our administrative efficiency targets and the expectation is that these staff will not be re-employed. The impact assessment published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill estimated the numbers of staff likely to be made redundant, the upfront cost of this and the cost-saving in the longer term.

Should it be necessary to re-employ PCT staff in the interests of service continuity during the transition to general practitioner consortia, any moneys paid under the Mutually Agreed Resignation scheme will be clawed back in accordance with the terms of that scheme.

Special Needs: Health Services

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that new GP consortia will provide annual health checks for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; what arrangements he plans to put in place to consider the specific health needs of such people; and if he will make a statement; [58063]

(2) what arrangements his Department has put in place to ensure that the boards of NHS trusts consider the specific health needs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement; [58064]

(3) how services will be commissioned for people with complex needs under his Department's proposals for the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [58065]

Paul Burstow: Subject to the NHS Listening Exercise and the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the NHS Commissioning Board will commission national and regional specialised services with commissioning consortia responsible for commissioning other complex services. Through consortia, general practitioners (GPs) and other clinicians will have new opportunities to shape the way that health services are designed and delivered. Taking into account the increasing range of NICE Quality Standards, consortia will work closely with secondary care and other health care professionals, and with community partners, to design joined-up services, and optimal care pathways, that make sense to patients, families and the public. They will have the freedom to seek the commissioning support they need to do this.

We will ensure that there is particular emphasis within the 'pathfinder' programme on testing ways of ensuring that consortia quickly develop knowledge and expertise in relation to more complex and specialist services. We will also ensure that the NHS Commissioning Board has a particular focus on promoting quality improvement in relation to more complex or specialist services. This will include exploring joint commissioning with local authorities, for instance in relation to care and support for children (including looked after children and children living in families with multiple problems), people with long-term mental health conditions, and people with learning disabilities.

In addition, local authorities and commissioning consortia will be required to prepare a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). This is to ensure that each area develops a comprehensive analysis of the current and future needs of their area (including those relevant to health, social care, public health). Based on the JSNA, the members of the Health and Wellbeing Board will be required to develop a joint health and well-being strategy for their area.

Arrangements for annual health checks for people with learning disabilities are currently covered by a Directed Enhanced Service, which forms part of the overall contractual framework for GP practices. Under the future commissioning arrangements proposed in the Health and Social Care Bill, the NHS Commissioning Board would be responsible for commissioning services from GP practices and for negotiating any changes to GP contracts.

Spinal Cord Injuries: Rehabilitation

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the rehabilitation requirements of people with spinal cord injuries who are not treated in specialist spinal cord injury centres; and if he will make a statement. [57961]

Paul Burstow: Most spinal injuries are caused by road traffic accidents and sports injuries. The Spinal Injuries Association estimate that around 40,000 people are currently living with a spinal cord injury in the United Kingdom.

Around 825 people are treated each year in the 11 United Kingdom specialist spinal injuries centres. These are based in Belfast, Cardiff, Glasgow, Middlesbrough, Oswestry, Sheffield, Southport, Stanmore, Stoke Mandeville, and Wakefield.

Patients with a spinal injury will be referred to a specialist centre following initial treatment at a local hospital.

Commissioning arrangements for specialised services, such as spinal injury services, have been strengthened by the publication in July 2006 of "Health Reform in England: Update and Commissioning Framework". The framework was informed by the "Review of Commissioning Arrangements for Specialised Services", under the leadership of Professor Sir David Carter, former Chief Medical Officer for Scotland.

Through specialised commissioning groups, primary care trusts work collectively to plan, commission and monitor specialised services for those with spinal injuries.

It is the responsibility of health professionals to assess the rehabilitation of all those living with spinal injuries.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to encourage charitable giving by Ministers in his Department. [57123]

Chris Grayling: All our Ministers are involved in charitable activity in their own constituency but that charitable giving is a private and personal issue.

We have doubled DWP's commitment to volunteering through our "Community 10,000" initiative to enable DWP staff to actively contribute to local voluntary and community organisations as part of this Government's wider civil service initiative. In addition this Department supports the civil service's official charity, The Royal National Lifeboat Institute and a Payroll Giving scheme is available to all employees.

Child Maintenance

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the potential savings to the Exchequer for charging *(a)* the parent with care and *(b)* the non-resident parent for (i) calculation fee, (ii) arrangement and collection fee and (iii) application fee when applying to use the Statutory Child Maintenance scheme under the proposals set out in the Green Paper on child maintenance. [57999]

Maria Miller: The impact of charges on the Exchequer will depend on the level at which they are set. We intend to publish detailed proposals and draft regulations in due course. Those will then be subject to a further period of consultation and, subsequently, affirmative regulations will be subject to debate in the House. The impact assessment accompanying consultation on the draft regulations will set out the financial implications of the proposed charging regime.

Crisis Loans

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's impact assessment on proposals for the localisation of crisis loans and community grants, when he expects to publish his Department's assessment of the costs and benefits of the proposals. [46399]

Steve Webb: Our proposal is to replace community care grants with local provision. Crisis loans will be replaced by a combination of local provision and payments on account of benefit. Local provision will be the responsibility of local authorities in England and the devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales. Payments on account will be delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions.

We published a call for evidence on the proposals for local provision on 17 February which contained consideration of the benefits of local delivery. If there are new administrative burdens on local authorities they will be funded by the Department for Work and Pensions in the usual way.

Disability Aids: Motor Vehicles

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what information his Department holds on the number of people found to have wrongfully received support in respect of an adapted motor vehicle in *(a)* England and *(b)* Winchester and Chandler's Ford in the most recent period for which data is available; [54791]

(2) what assessment he has made of the eligibility criteria for the awarding of adapted cars for claimants of disability living allowance; [54792]

(3) how many people claiming the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance received an adapted motor vehicle in *(a)* England and *(b)* Winchester and Chandler's Ford in the latest period for which figures are available. [54797]

Maria Miller: Support for adapted motor vehicles is available through the Motability scheme. The Department works closely with Motability but it is an independent charity and is wholly responsible for the administration of the Motability scheme. Specific questions relating to the operation of the scheme should be directed at Motability and can be sent to: Declan O'Mahony, Director, Motability, Warwick house, Roydon road, Harlow, Essex, CM19 5PX.

Motability has advised that the rigorous assessment process and criteria they use for determining support for adapted vehicles has meant that they have never identified any incidences of scheme customers receiving support they were not entitled to. Support for vehicle adaptations is provided through Motability's own charitable fund or the Specialised Vehicles Fund, which Motability administers on behalf of the Department.

The Specialised Vehicles Fund provides financial assistance to those severely disabled scheme customers who require complex vehicle adaptations that allow them to enter a car as a passenger while remaining seated in their wheelchair or enables them to drive their car whilst remaining seated in their wheelchair. The Department is satisfied that the criteria Motability use to sift applications to the Specialised Vehicles Fund helps severely disabled people who face barriers to living independently including those who are seeking or in employment or education.

Disability Living Allowance

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of children, excluding existing applicants, whose premium entitlement in respect of disability will be reduced from £52 to £25.95 a week under the universal credit in each of the next five financial years. [57941]

Chris Grayling: Departmental modelling estimates that, once fully implemented, approximately 100,000 children would have a lower entitlement as a result of the reform of disability benefits under universal credit. However, these households will receive full cash protection against this change to ensure that there are no cash losers at the point of transition. Estimates on a year-by-year basis during the transition period are not available.

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department plans to take to gather evidence of overlapping payments made to recipients of the disability living allowance mobility component in residential care homes. [58225]

Maria Miller: DWP officials have been reviewing the available evidence and gathering more to determine the extent to which there are overlaps in provision for mobility needs of people in residential care homes.

When the work is complete we will make a final decision on the way forward. Any changes will be rolled into the introduction of Personal Independence Payment from April 2013.

Our intention is not to reduce the mobility of residents in care homes but to remove any overlaps in provision.

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the number of disability living allowance claimants with an indefinite award who will be granted a short-term award as a result of changes to the benefits system. [58228]

Maria Miller: Currently there is no systematic process for regularly reviewing disability living allowance (DLA) awards and the majority of DLA recipients—70%[1]—have an indefinite award, which means it may not be reviewed unless the individual reports a change in their condition or circumstances. As a result, some people are currently receiving an incorrect amount of DLA. This undermines the credibility of the benefit.

We want to ensure that personal independence payment awards remain correct. We will do this by making awards for a fixed term, except in exceptional circumstances. The length of award will be based on the individual's needs and the likelihood of their health condition or impairment changing. As the award duration will be based on an assessment of the individual, I am unable to predict the outcome of the assessment and how many individuals with a current DLA award will receive a shorter-term award of personal independence payment.

[1] "Analysis of Disability Living Allowance: DLA Awards", Department for Work and Pensions, March 2011.

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what income threshold will apply to people *(a)* with and *(b)* without disabilities for the payment of universal credit. [58234]

Chris Grayling: There is no single level of income beyond which universal credit will no longer be paid. Universal credit claimants will have a maximum amount reflecting personal circumstances such as housing costs, responsibility for dependent children and other needs. This maximum amount will be reduced to take account of certain types of earned and unearned income and income from capital.

As we said in the recent policy briefing note

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/ucpbn-1-additions.pdf

for disabled people who have limited capability for work or limited capability for work and work-related activity, there will be an additional element included in the maximum amount. We have also said that there will be a disregard of net earnings of up to £7,000 a year in such cases.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 1002-3W, on the disability living allowance, for what reasons he does not plan to publish the findings of the review into funding for the mobility needs of people in residential care; and when he expects the work to be complete. [58072]

Maria Miller: There is no formal review. Officials in the Department for Work and Pensions have been reviewing mobility needs and available support for residents of care homes. When this work is completed soon we will make a decision on the way forward. What is important is that we get the policy right. Any changes will be rolled into the introduction of personal independence payment from April 2013.

Disposable Income

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the level of personal disposable income in real terms in each year since 1981. [57568]

Chris Grayling: Estimates of equivalised household disposable incomes are available in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series, produced by the Department for Work and Pensions, which is why the question has been transferred from the Cabinet Office to the Department for Work and Pensions.

The Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living. This data are at a household not individual level.

Table 1: Median equivalised household income 1990-91 to 2009-10, in 2009-10 prices

£ per week

	Before Housing Costs	*After Housing Costs*
1981 (UK)	254	206
1987 (UK)	292	236
1988-89 (UK)	313	256
1990-91 (UK)	321	261
1991-92 (UK)	322	263
1992-93 (UK)	323	264
1993-95 (UK)	328	270
1994-95 (GB)	323	262
1995-96 (GB)	323	263
1996-97 (GB)	338	277
1997-98 (GB)	344	282
1998-99 (GB)	349	288
1999-2000 (GB)	360	300
2000-01 (GB)	371	312
2001-02 (GB)	389	329
2002-03 (UK)	396	341
2003-04 (UK)	396	343
2004-05 (UK)	400	348
2005-06 (UK)	404	353
2006-07 (UK)	405	355
2007-08 (UK)	406	357
2008-09 (UK)	409	354
2009-10 (UK)	413	356

Notes:

1. FES figures are for the United Kingdom, FRS figures are for Great Britain up to 2001-02, and for the United Kingdom from 2002-03. The reference period for FRS figures is single financial years. FES figures are two combined calendar years from 1990-91 to 1992-93 and two financial years combined for 1993-95.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. Figures have been presented on a Before Housing Cost and an After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Costs, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, buildings insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Costs they are.
4. Disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
5. Incomes are presented in 2009-10 prices and have been rounded to the nearest £ sterling.
6. The majority of these statistics are publicly available in the Households Below Average Income Report on the DWP website:
http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbai

Sources:

1. Family Expenditure Survey (FES) 1990-91 to 1993-95
2. Family Resources Survey (FRS)1994-95 to 2009-10

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women claimed income-related employment and support allowance for themselves and a partner in the latest period for which figures are available. [57695]

Maria Miller: The information requested is given as follows.

Income-related employment and support allowance claimants with a partner, by gender at November 2010

	All income-based	*With partner payment*
All persons	322,450	51,080
Female	142,800	15,880

Income-related employment and support allowance claimants with a partner, by gender at November 2010

	All income-based	*With partner payment*
Male	179,650	35,200

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Employment and support allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
3. Benefit type—The type of ESA is defined as pay status at the caseload date—this may differ to the status at the start or end of the claim.
4. Data in this table are for those receiving income-based ESA, but includes a small number of people entitled to both contributory and income-based ESA.
5. Figures for partners are only shown where an increase is in payment for a dependant adult.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100%.

Employment Schemes: Mental Illness

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Work programme will support people with mental health problems into work; and if he will make a statement. [57477]

Chris Grayling: The Work programme will cater for a wide range of customer groups, including many with disabilities and health issues, including mental health issues.

Harder to help customers will be able to access the programme early if appropriate and we will pay providers more to support them. For example, if a provider supports a customer moving from incapacity benefits to employment and support allowance into sustained employment, they can earn almost £14,000.

We have not told providers what they must do to support customers except that they should provide a truly personalised service that addresses their customers' specific challenges, including through partnership work with local health care providers. They will be free to innovate to find new and more effective ways of overcoming a range of disadvantages, including those with mental health conditions.

Many customers with disabilities are eligible for in work support through Access to Work, and those referred to the Work programme will remain eligible for the elements of this which providers couldn't reasonably be expected to offer.

English Language: Education

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* the Minister for Employment have had with (i) the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and (ii) the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning on the proposal to only offer free courses in English for speakers of other languages to those in receipt of active benefits. [57942]

Chris Grayling: Ministers and officials in the Department for Work and Pensions worked closely with their counterparts in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to develop the Government's strategy on skills for sustainable growth. For people who do not have the necessary English language skills to find work, the Government recognise the importance of English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) training in helping them gain employment and to contribute to society. It is equally vital that where people are required to engage in the labour market as a condition of receiving benefits that appropriate support is in place. The Government's priority is therefore to focus the available resources of publicly-funded ESOL provision on people whose lack of English is preventing them from finding work.

Housing Benefit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of exempting from the total household benefit cap households where any member is in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* personal independence payment, *(c)* attendance allowance, *(d)* constant attendance allowance, *(e)* employment and support allowance and is in the support group, *(f)* employment and support allowance and is in the work-related activity group, *(g)* carer's allowance and *(h)* any element or other component of universal credit paid in respect of a disability in each of the next five financial years. [57886]

Chris Grayling: The spending review 2010 announced that from 2013 we will introduce a cap on the total amount of benefit that working-age people can receive so that households on out-of-work benefits will no longer receive more in welfare payments than the average weekly wage for working households. The benefit cap is intended to promote fairness between those in and out of work and to increase incentives for people to move into work or increase their hours of employment.

On its introduction we estimate that household benefit payments will be capped at around £500 per week for couple and lone parent households and around £350 per week for single adult households.

We are looking at ways of easing the transition for families and providing assistance in hard cases.

If the benefit cap were applied in full, as described in the supporting documentation for the spending review 2010 the savings to the Exchequer are estimated to be £225 million in 2013-14 and £270 million in 2014-15.

The household benefit cap as announced excludes households where someone is in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(d)* constant attendance allowance. Claimants receiving *(b)* personal independence payment will be treated the same way as claimants receiving disability living allowance for the purposes of the benefit cap.

Estimates suggest that excluding households where a member is in receipt of *(c)* attendance allowance or *(e)* employment and support allowance and is in the support group would have a negligible impact on the overall savings from the benefit cap.

Excluding households where a member is in receipt of *(f)* employment support allowance in the work-related activity group is expected to reduce savings to approximately £210 million in 2013-14 and £225 million 2014-15. Figures are not available for 2015-16 and beyond.

Excluding households where a member is in receipt of *(g)* carers allowance is expected to reduce savings to approximately £210 million in 2013-14 and £255 million 2014-15. Figures are not available for 2015-16 and beyond.

Note that estimates above are based on the current benefit system including changes announced in the spending review 2010, but excluding universal credit.

Information on section *(h)* is not available as the estimated savings from the benefit cap in universal credit will depend upon final detailed design issues regarding the treatment of in-work households.

Analysis of those affected by the benefit cap has been modelled using survey data—as such there is a degree of uncertainty around the results.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of exempting from the total household benefit cap households where no adult is subject to any work-related requirements for universal credit or out-of-work benefits under the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill in each of the next five financial years. [57887]

Chris Grayling: The spending review 2010 announced that from 2013 we will introduce a cap on the total amount of benefit that working-age people can receive so that households on out-of-work benefits will no longer receive more in welfare payments than the average weekly wage for working households. The benefit cap is intended to promote fairness between those in and out of work and to increase incentives for people to move into work or increase their hours of employment.

On its introduction we estimate that household benefit payments will be capped at around £500 per week for couple and lone parent households and around £350 per week for single adult households.

If the benefit cap were applied as described in the spending review the savings to the Exchequer are estimated to be £225 million in 2013-14 and £270 million in 2014-15.

If households where no adult is subject to any work-related requirements were excluded from the benefit cap, savings would fall to approximately £190 million in 2013-14 and £230 million in 2014-15. Figures for 2015-16 and beyond are not available.

Analysis of those affected by the benefit cap has been modelled using survey data—as such there is a degree of uncertainty around the results.

Note that estimates above are based on the current benefit system including changes announced in the spending review 2010, but excluding universal credit. The estimated savings from the benefit cap in universal credit will depend upon final detailed design issues regarding the treatment of in-work households.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of exempting from the total household benefit cap couples with dependent children who would not be affected by the benefit cap if they lived in separate households in each of the next five financial years. [57888]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available. We would have to make complex assumptions about housing costs, caring responsibilities and family composition of a couple living apart in order to estimate the cost to the Exchequer.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of excluding from the amount liable for the total household benefit cap *(a)* child benefit, *(b)* child tax credit, *(c)* child-care costs and *(d)* any amount of the universal credit awarded in respect of children in each of the next five financial years. [57889]

Chris Grayling: The spending review 2010 announced that from 2013 we will introduce a cap on the total amount of benefit that working-age people can receive so that households on out-of-work benefits will no longer receive more in welfare payments than the average weekly wage for working households. The benefit cap is intended to promote fairness between those in and out of work and to increase incentives for people to move into work or increase their hours of employment.

On its introduction we estimate that household benefit payments will be capped at around £500 per week for couple and lone parent households and around £350 per week for single adult households.

If the benefit cap were applied as described in the spending review the savings to the Exchequer are estimated to be £225 million in 2013-14 and £270 million in 2014-15.

Estimates suggest that excluding *(a)* child benefit from the calculation of the household benefit cap would reduce savings to approximately £115 million in 2013-14 and £140 million 2014-15, while excluding *(b)* child tax credit would reduce savings to approximately £40 million in 2013-14 and £50 million in 2014-15. Figures are not available for 2015-16 and beyond.

Working tax credit recipients (including those receiving child care support through WTC) are excluded from the benefit cap, therefore excluding support paid for *(c)* child care costs through working tax credit from the benefit cap will have no impact on the overall savings.

The information requested in section *(d)* is not available as the estimated savings from the benefit cap in universal credit will depend upon final detailed design issues regarding the treatment of in-work households.

Note that estimates above are based on the current benefit system including changes announced in the spending review 2010, but excluding universal credit.

Analysis of those affected by the benefit cap has been modelled using survey data—as such there is a degree of uncertainty around the results.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the additional cost to the public purse of exempting from the total household benefit cap households that would be worse off in work once child-care costs are taken into consideration in each of the next five financial years. [57926]

Chris Grayling: The total amount of child-care costs depends on individual families' circumstances and therefore we are unable to make an accurate assessment of the proportion of households affected by the benefit cap that would be worse off in work.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the additional cost to the public purse of exempting from the total household benefit cap households where someone has left work due to *(a)* redundancy or illness and *(b)* reasons relating to the care of a child in each of the next five financial years. [57927]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

The costing model used to estimate the effects of the benefit cap is based on data from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey (FRS). The FRS does not record information on whether an out-of-work member of a household left work due to redundancy or illness or for other reasons relating to the care of a child.

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of excluding from the amount liable for the total household benefit cap any amount of the universal credit paid in respect of a disability in each of the next five financial years. [57940]

Chris Grayling: We have announced that households which include a member who is entitled to disability living allowance or personal independence payment will be exempt from the cap.

The specific information requested, is not available as the estimated savings from the benefit cap in universal credit will depend upon final detailed design issues regarding the treatment of in-work households.

Industrial Injuries

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many workplace injuries where exposure to high temperatures was a contributory factor were reported to the Health and Safety Executive in each of the last six years. [57953]

Chris Grayling: A total of 209 injuries have been reported to the Health and Safety Executive where exposure to high temperatures was stated as a contributory factor, as outlined in the following table. These relate to reported injuries to workers where the 'agent of injury' has been coded as 16.01 'Physical phenomena, excessive heat in atmosphere including from the sun', injuries which can occur working both indoors and outdoors.

	Fatal injuries	*Total injuries*
2004-05	—	36
2005-06	—	31
2006-07	1	55
2007-08	—	15
2008-09	—	33
2009-10	—	39

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many prosecutions of employers the Health and Safety Executive has brought for failure to manage high temperatures in the workplace in each of the last six years. [57954]

Chris Grayling: From 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2010, the Health and Safety Executive took one prosecution as a result of employers' failures to manage high temperatures in the workplace. The employer was found guilty and ordered to pay fines totalling £30,000.

Motability

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what discussions his Department has had with representatives of Motability on Aspect Conversions Ltd; [57254]

(2) whether his Department has any oversight of Motability's Premier Partner Supplier scheme. [57731]

Maria Miller: The Department works closely with Motability but it is an independent charity and is wholly responsible the administration of the Motability scheme. Specific questions relating to scheme policy or the operation of the scheme should be directed at Motability and can be sent to: Declan O'Mahony, Director, Motability, Warwick House, Roydon Road, Harlow, Essex CM19 5PX.

Motability: Finance

Mark Pawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding his Department provided for the Motability scheme in each of the last 10 years. [57847]

Maria Miller: Motability is an independent charity and is wholly responsible for the administration of the Motability scheme. Motability is largely self-financed and the only funding the Department for Work and Pensions gives the scheme relates to the Specialised Vehicles Fund, which Motability administers on our behalf. Information on the amount of funding allocated to Motability in respect of the Specialised Vehicles Fund and its administration in each of the last 10 years is contained in the following table.

Funding for the Specialised Vehicle Fund and its administration over the last 10 years

£000

	Specialised Vehicles Fund	*Administration*
2001-02	6,597	2,200
2002-03	6,997	2,200
2003-04	7,772	2,600
2004-05	8,375	2,700
2005-06	8,615	2,800
2006-07	9,087	2,800
2007-08	12,700	2,960
2008-09	17,036	2,960
2009-10	17,036	2,208
2010-11	17,036	1,208

Note:

The Specialised Vehicles Fund provides financial assistance to those severely disabled scheme customers who require complex vehicle adaptations that allow them to enter a car as a passenger while remaining seated in their wheelchair or enables them drive their car while seated in their wheelchair.

Child Poverty

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect of recent changes in child benefit on the number and proportion of children living in poverty by 2015. [56792]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

Changes to child benefit are one of a number of changes the Government have made to the tax and benefits system. These changes also include substantial increases above indexation of the child element of the child tax credit in April 2011 and April 2012. Treasury analysis shows that modelled tax and benefit reforms announced since Budget 2010 may have a small reduction in child poverty in 2011-12 and 2012-13.

The Government have recently published their first Child Poverty Strategy, which covers the period 2011-14, and sets out the Government's vision for every child to have the opportunity to realise their potential and stabilise the lives of particularly vulnerable families.

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce child poverty in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* London. [57354]

Maria Miller: The national child poverty strategy, published on 5 April this year, sets out how we will reduce child poverty across the UK. In addition to setting out how national reforms—such as the introduction of universal credit—will help reduce child poverty across the UK, the strategy also sets out local areas' key role in tackling child poverty. Through decentralising power, reducing bureaucracy and greater local accountability we are giving local areas the freedom they need to tackle the particular root causes of child poverty in their area; for example the first phase of community budgets aimed at tackling families with multiple problems are being implemented in 16 local areas including eight London boroughs.

The universal credit will support those who do the right thing, who take a full-time job to have an income which lifts them out of poverty. Our proposed design should enable most families with children who have a parent in full-time employment to have an income that lifts them out of poverty. The same should apply for lone parents who work at least 24 hours a week or more. The six contractors for London were announced in April and the programme will be rolled-out in London over the coming months.

The strategy also sets put the Child Poverty Core Offer of sector-led support that is available to all local authorities to help them implement their duties to reduce child poverty under Part 2 of the Child Poverty Act 2010. As part of the Government's wider goal to free-up policy delivery to target local need, we will continue to push power away from the centre to local government, communities and voluntary sectors, to help those families in difficulties make their voices heard.

Retirement: Age

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will estimate the number of *(a)* women and *(b)* men who would be affected by increasing the state pension age for men and women from 65 to 66 between 2020 and 2022 and bringing forward the proposed increased in the state pension age to 67 years old in 2036 by 18 months; [57639]

(2) if he will estimate the savings to the Exchequer which would arise from increasing the state pension age from 65 to 66 between 2020 and 2022 and bringing forward the proposed increase in the state pension age to 67 years old in 2036 by 18 months; [57638]

(3) if he will estimate the maximum delay in additional time for a *(a)* man and *(b)* woman to wait to receive a state pension in the case where the state pension age for both men and women increased from 65 to 66 between 2020 and 2022 and the proposed increase in the state pension age to 67 years old in 2036 was brought forward by 18 months. [57640]

Steve Webb: The number of women and men who would be affected by increasing the state pension age from 65 to 66 between 2020 and 2022 and bringing forward the legislated increase to 67 by 18 months is 2.9 million and 2.9 million, respectively.

The maximum delay for both men and women compared to the currently legislated timetable in the case where the state pension age for both men and women increased from 65 to 66 between 2020 and 2022 and the proposed increase to 67 in 2036 was brought forward by 18 months would be of 12 months.

Increasing the state pension's age from 65 to 66 between 2020 and 2022 would result in savings of £19.7 billion (in 2010-11 prices) between 2020-21 and 2025-26. This is significantly less than the savings of £30 billion (in 2010-11 prices) between 2016-17 and 2025-26 resulting from the Pensions Bill 2011 timetable.

Bringing forward the proposed increase in the state pension age to 67 by 18 months from the legislated timetable would result in savings of £11 billion (in 2010-11 prices) between 2032-33 and 2035-36.

State Retirement Pensions: Barnsley

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many women in Barnsley East constituency born between 6 March 1954 and 5 April 1954 will be required to wait an additional two years before claiming a state pension under his plans to accelerate the state pension age; [58126]

(2) how many women in Barnsley East constituency born between 6 December 1953 and 5 October 1954 will be required to wait an additional 18 months to claim a state pension under his plans to accelerate the state pension age. [58127]

Steve Webb: We estimate that in Barnsley East constituency there are approximately 480 women, born between 6 December 1953 and 5 October 1954, who will have an increase in state pension age of 18 months or more. Of these, approximately 50 women, born between 6 March 1954 and 5 April 1954, will have an increase in their state pension age of two years.

Universal Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of second earners who will be subject to higher withdrawal rates under universal credit who are in couples without children. [54194]

Maria Miller: Departmental modelling estimates that the majority of the estimated 300,000 second earners reported in the Impact Assessment to experience an increase in their withdrawal rate under universal credit are in couples with children. This is unsurprising given that over 90% of second earners with affected withdrawal rates are in couples with children. Less than 50,000 of the second earners who see an increase in their withdrawal rate are in childless couples.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1340W, on winter fuel payments, what the birthday date for qualification for winter fuel allowance will be for *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each of the next 15 years following enactment of the proposals set out in the Pensions Bill 2011. [57646]

Steve Webb: The age at which winter fuel payments can be received is increasing in line with the women's state pension age.

Following Royal Assent, the changes to state pension age set out in the Pensions Bill 2011 would mean that the next 15 years of qualifying birth dates for winter fuel payments will be as set out in the following table. The dates are the same for men and women.

Winter fuel payment qualifying dates

Winter	*Must be born on or before this date to qualify*
2011-12	5 January 1951
2012-13	5 July 1951
2013-14	5 January 1952
2014-15	5 July 1952
2015-16	5 January 1953
2016-17	5 May 1953
2017-18	5 August 1953
2018-19	5 November 1953
2019-20	5 February 1954
2020-21	26 September 1955
2021-22	25 September 1956
2022-23	24 September 1957
2023-24	22 September 1958
2024-25	21 September 1959
2025-26	27 September 1960

EDUCATION

Children: Hearing Impairment

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what financial support his Department *(a)* has provided in each of the last three years and *(b)* plans to provide in 2011-12 and 2012-13 for hearing access equipment for deaf children in Walsall; [56361]

(2) what financial support his Department *(a)* has provided in each of the last three years and *(b)* plans to provide in 2011-12 and 2012-13 for speech and language therapy services for deaf children in Walsall; [56362]

(3) what financial support his Department *(a)* has provided in each of the last three years and *(b)* plans to provide in 2011-12 and 2012-13 for specialist education support services for deaf children in Walsall. [56363]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* Funding data specifically for hearing access equipment; for speech and language therapy services; and for specialist education support for deaf children are not collected by the Department. However, the available information on the net expenditure planned by Walsall local authority on the provision of education for pupils with special educational needs in the last three years is shown in the following table:

Planned (net) provision for pupils with SEN in Walsall

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Walsall	2,194,262	2,826,359	3,272,071

The Department is currently collecting the section 251 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 Budget data for the 2011-12 financial year. The information will not be publicly available until later in the year, when it will be published as Official Statistics.

Departmental Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to encourage charitable giving by Ministers in his Department. [57120]

Sarah Teather: This is a personal matter for individual Ministers.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to ensure that children are trained in emergency life support skills including cardiopulmonary resuscitation. [57923]

Mr Gibb: Within the non-statutory programmes of study for personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, pupils are taught about basic emergency procedures and where to get help. They learn to develop the skills to cope with emergency situations that require basic first aid procedures, including resuscitation techniques.

The 2010 Ofsted report found that three quarters of schools surveyed provided good or outstanding PSHE.

We have announced our intention to hold an internal review of PSHE education to determine how we can support schools to improve the quality of all PSHE teaching, including giving teachers the flexibility to use their judgement about how best to deliver PSHE education. Further details will be announced shortly.

School Standards

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what research his Department has conducted on the cost-effectiveness of packages of education, care and health support in *(a)* non-maintained and *(b)* maintained special schools. [55554]

Sarah Teather: It is for local authorities to determine the cost-effectiveness of the school to be named in a child's statement of special educational needs. In determining the school to be named a local authority will take into account whether the placement is suitable to meet the child's age, ability aptitude and type of SEN; whether the placement is compatible with the efficient education of other children with whom the child will be educated; and whether the placement is an efficient use of local authority resources, which will include the cost-effectiveness of the placement. The fees charged by non-maintained special schools will vary with the individual needs of each child and are contractual matters to be decided between the school and local authority. Maintained special schools are currently funded in accordance with an authority's local funding formula determined in discussion with its schools forum. The first part of a two part consultation on school funding reforms closed on 25 May 2011 and full details are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/
index.cfm?action=conResults&consultationId=1756
&external=no&menu=3

Separation

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education in what geographic area the funding his Department has allocated for relationship support services with respect to family separation over the next four years will be spent. [57636]

Sarah Teather: The funding the Department has allocated to relationship support services is for England only.

Special Educational Needs

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assistance his Department provides to parents of children with learning difficulties. [54954]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 12 May 2012]:* We set out in the Green Paper, "Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability", the main ways we are supporting parents of children with learning difficulties: every local authority in England has a duty to arrange a parent partnership service to give parents advice and information about their child's special educational needs; the Department is directly funding parent carer forums in every local authority area which enable parents to shape local services for disabled children; and, we have also recently distributed £6.5 million in grants to the voluntary and community sector to provide local support to communities including parents of children with learning difficulties.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Advantage West Midlands

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to make a decision on the future ownership of the Ansty Business Park in Coventry following the closure of Advantage West Midlands. [52061]

Mr Prisk: Each regional development agency (RDA), including Advantage West Midlands (AWM), has developed a detailed plan for the disposal and treatment of its assets and liabilities and scrutiny of these is continuing. We have agreed aspects of AWM's assets and liabilities plan and are still in discussions about others, including the future of the Ansty Business Park. In line with my previous answers on this issue disposals will be made in a way that secures best value for the taxpayer and minimises costs. It will be for AWM to set out a strategy for disposing of individual sites and assets.

Apprentices

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding he has allocated to support *(a)* apprenticeship places, *(b)* advanced apprenticeship places and *(c)* higher apprenticeship places in 2011-12. [41086]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 208-09W, to his question asking what funding has been allocated for *(a)* apprenticeship places, *(b)* advanced apprenticeship places and *(c)* higher apprenticeship places in 2011-12; and what funding was allocated in each such category in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [38196]

The apprenticeships programme is demand-led. Government do not plan apprenticeship places by level but provides funding and forecasts the overall number of places that may be afforded. We rely on employers and providers to work together to offer sufficient opportunities to meet local demand, taking advantage of the greater freedoms and flexibilities that we have created in the further education system.

In 2009-10, the planned expenditure on participation in apprenticeship training was £1,042 million[1]. The apprenticeship budget for the 2010-11 financial year is £1,328 million[2]: £780 million for 16 to 18-year-olds; £548 million for 19+. We expect to spend over £1,400 million in the 2011-12 financial year: £799 million for 16 to 18-year-olds; £605 million for those aged 19 and over[3].

The total volume of apprenticeship starts in 2009/10 was 279,700. This is an increase of 16.6% compared to 2008/09. Of these there were:

190,500 apprenticeship (Level 2) starts-a 20.2% increase on 2008/09;

87,700 advanced apprenticeship (Level 3) starts-a 7.9% increase on 2008/09;

1,500 higher level apprenticeship (Level 4+) starts-a large increase on 2008/09.

We have ensured there is sufficient funding in place to train over 350,000 apprentices in England in the 2010/11 academic year. For the 2011/12 academic year, our indicative forecast is to fund over 360,000 apprenticeship places. The levels that these places are at will be determined by the level of skills employers actually need in their business.

Provisional data show that there were 119,800 apprenticeship starts in the first quarter of the 2010/11 academic year. Of these there were:

76,300 apprenticeship (Level 2) starts;

42,300 advanced apprenticeship (Level 3) starts; and

1,200 higher level apprenticeship (Level 4 or higher) starts.

We are committed to improving, expanding and re-shaping apprenticeships so that Level 3 becomes the level to which learners and employers should aspire. We will also ensure there are clear routes into apprenticeships to widen access to the programme, and clear routes into higher level skills training including, but not exclusively, Level 4 apprenticeships.

[1] LSC grant letter for 2009-10

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/nat-statementofpriorities200910-nov08.pdf

[2] 16-18 figs: DCSF 16-19 Statement of Priorities and Investment Strategy 2010-11; 19+figs: SFA Funding Letter

[3] 16-18 figures: 16-19 Funding Statement, YPLA (December 2010); 19+ figures: Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth, BIS (November 2010)

Business: Higher Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant the answer of 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 485-6W, on business: higher education, how much funding was allocated to encouraging partnerships between universities and businesses in each of the last five years; how much such funding has been allocated through *(a)* the Research Council Pathways to Impact, *(b)* HEFCE's Research Excellence Framework, *(c)* the Higher Education Innovation Funding and *(d)* as a result of ongoing collaboration between the Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board for each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [46993]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 15 March 2011]:* Research Council Pathways to Impact are not a system for allocating separate funding. The first Research Excellence Framework assessment will be completed in 2014, and it will inform research funding allocations from 2015. In respect of higher education innovation funding, I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 21 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 977W.

The scale of Research Council activity aligned with the Technology Strategy Board over the three years 2008-11 was £200 million. Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board are committed to continue to work together; detailed decisions on future collaborative funding will be made by them in due course.

Business: Loans

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on small and medium-sized enterprises of the failure of banks who are party to the Merlin Agreement to meet their lending targets under that agreement. [57976]

Mr Prisk: The Merlin Agreement was about setting stretching lending targets to the banks to make sure that they make available the credit that businesses need to grow. This is particularly important for small businesses, and this is why we have insisted on individual figures for SMEs.

The Bank of England reported the banks' first quarter performance against the Merlin Agreement on 23 May. Lending to SMEs in the first quarter was £16.8 billion against a quarterly 'stretch' target of £17.2 billion (the 'capacity' target would imply a figure of £19 billion). This is disappointing and, although lending to small firms will not follow a linear pattern month on month, the banks must do more to ensure that they meet their commitment over the next few months.

The agreement with the banks was made mid-way through the first quarter, and this might have impacted on the figures. But it is too early to properly assess the impact of the Merlin Agreement on small businesses' ability to access bank finance.

We will therefore continue to monitor very closely whether the banks are making sufficient credit available to small firms before passing a definitive judgement on the impact of the agreement on small businesses.

The Government are clear that, if the banks fail to meet their commitments, the Government reserves the right to return to the matter and take further measures.

Business: Regulation

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress has been made in implementing the one-in-one-out rule to reduce the level of business regulation. [58240]

Mr Prisk: On April 7 2011, the Government published the first in a series of publications entitled 'One-in, One-out: Statement of New Regulation', which will be published twice a year. The Statement of New Regulation showed that the Government's one-in, one-out rule has resulted in an overall reduction in the net cost to business and civil society organisations of -£3.207 billion.

When work started on the Statement of New Regulation, Departments proposed a total of 157 domestic regulatory measures, 119 of which would have imposed a cost to business. In the course of preparing the Statement of New Regulation the requirement for the estimates to be assessed and confirmed by the independent Regulatory Policy Committee was rigorously imposed, and Departments were challenged to defend particular regulatory decisions. The result was that the total number of proposed regulations dropped by 70% (from 157 to 46). Of the remaining 46 measures only 11 impose a net cost to business, 26 impose a zero net cost to business and nine reduce the net cost to business.

Businesses

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to remove regulatory burdens from businesses. [57937]

Mr Prisk: The Government have set out a clear aim—to leave office having reduced the overall burden of regulation.

We have already taken a number of important steps towards this goal. For example, the Statement of New Regulation, published in April, showed that from an initial 157 proposed new domestic regulations, robust implementation of the one-in, one-out rule meant that the total number of regulations being implemented was reduced by 70% (from 157 to 46), of these only 11 imposed a net cost on business (£65 million) which was outweighed by a considerable reduction in burdens elsewhere (£3.3 billion).

We have also ended 'gold-plating' of EU directives, introduced sunset clauses for new regulation and announced an unprecedented three-year regulatory moratorium from new domestic regulation for micro-businesses and new start-ups.

The 'One-in, One-out: Statement of New Regulation' is available here:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/better-regulation/docs/o/11-p96a-one-in-one-out-new-regulation.pdf

Businesses Advisory Services

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of business mentors. [56648]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 7 June 2011]:* The Government want to improve access to, and raise awareness of, the diverse mentoring provision and expertise in the UK. To achieve this we have been working with the British Bankers Association (BBA), UK trade bodies and mentoring organisations to develop a single web-based gateway. I understand that the BBA has identified approximately 50 key mentoring organisations which they hope will join the portal. These organisations have approximately 12,000 business mentors currently aligned to them.

BIS is working with the BBA to make a more comprehensive assessment of the number of business mentors and to engage mentoring organisations, business organisations, multi national corporations and the banks to determine how to expand provision of business mentoring.

Consumer Credit

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish the Government's response to the consultation on reforming the consumer credit regime. [58059]

Mr Davey: The Government will publish a summary of responses to the consultation in the summer, followed by a more detailed response in the autumn.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of his Department's employees categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* number of employees taking voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [57603]

Mr Davey: The Government are committed to transparency and the availability of data and are currently exploring options for the more frequent publication of this type of workforce management information across the civil service.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publish information on employment levels by responsibility level as part of the Annual Civil Service Employment survey as well as information on the overall number of leavers by Department including BIS. This can be viewed at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899

ONS publish information on employment levels across the civil service as part of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Bulletin, which can be viewed at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=13615

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the name is of each contractor or supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to his Department. [56054]

Mr Davey: The Department currently uses Vodafone for its mobile telephone and mobile data services.

Education: Prisoners

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to "Making Prisons Work: Skills for Rehabilitation", how many and what proportion of offenders paid for learning in prison in the last year for which figures are available; and how many and what proportion he expects to pay for learning in prison following the implementation of the review's recommendations. [57462]

Mr Hayes: Data on the number offenders currently paying for their learning while in prison are not collected centrally.

"Making Prisons Work: Skills for Rehabilitation" made clear the Government's view that not all learning in prison should be free, particularly when there is an expectation elsewhere in the system that learners will contribute to costs. We have committed to considering the case for offenders, and employers, contributing to the costs of intermediate and higher level training, and to making sure arrangements for prisoners studying higher education are aligned with mainstream changes from autumn 2012.

It is not currently possible to estimate how many or what proportion of prisoners will pay for learning in prison until we have considered these issues further.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to "Making Prisons Work: Skills for Rehabilitation", when he expects a loans system to be in place to enable offenders to pay for further education and higher education in prison. [57463]

Mr Hayes: For further education and training, "Skills for Sustainable Growth" set out the Government's intention to introduce loans, from the 2013/14 academic year, to help people access the funds they need to gain intermediate and higher level skills. Further information on those loans will be made available in a consultation document we intend to publish during June.

Loan arrangements are already in place to support prisoners studying full-time higher education. The Minister for Universities and Science, my right hon. Friend the Member for Havant (Mr Willetts), announced in his oral statement of 3 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 924, on higher education funding and student finance that part-time students will be entitled to a loan for tuition on the same basis as full-timers, and that the Government intends to implement these changes for the 2012/13 academic year. Access to loans for prisoners studying higher education on a part-time basis will be considered in conjunction with the other changes required to give effect to this.

Export Credit Guarantees: Egypt

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he has given to the merits of auditing debts owed by Egypt to the Export Credits Guarantee Department; and if he will consider the merits of cancelling any debt owed by Egypt which was the result of loans made to governments which are considered undemocratic. [58226]

Mr Davey: No audit of debts owed by Egypt to the Export Credits Guarantee Department is contemplated. To date Egypt has not sought cancellation of debts owed to ECGD or any other export credit agency. Such matters would be decided multilaterally through the auspices of the Paris Club of official creditors.

Export Credit Guarantees: Trinidad and Tobago

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 361W, on export credit guarantees: Trinidad and Tobago; whether a claim has been made to the Export Credits Guarantee Department in respect of the cover on the sale of offshore patrol vessels to Trinidad and Tobago; and if he will make a statement. [58075]

Mr Davey: No claim has been received by the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

Higher Education

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) with reference to the report of the Higher Education Funding Council for England on "Diverse provision in higher education: options and challenges", if he will take steps to ensure that higher education courses provided by private providers are subject to the same standards of *(a)* transparency, *(b)* assessment and *(c)* measures of student satisfaction as publicly-funded higher education institutions; [57523]

(2) with reference to the report of the Higher Education Funding Council for England on "Diverse provision in higher education: options and challenges", what steps he plans to take to maintain the reputation of higher education; [57524]

(3) with reference to the report of the Higher Education Funding Council for England on "Diverse provision in higher education: options and challenges", if he will take steps to ensure that private providers of higher education have a duty to widen participation; [57525]

(4) with reference to the report of the Higher Education Funding Council for England on "Diverse provision in higher education: options and challenges", whether private providers of higher education will be subject to the same quality assessment regime as publicly-funded higher education institutions; [57526]

(5) what assessment he has made of the report of the Higher Education Funding Council for England on "Diverse provision in higher education: options and challenges" in relation to private provision of higher education; [57527]

(6) if he will take account of the risks identified by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in its report on "Diverse provision in higher education: options and challenges" in further consultation on private provision of higher education; [57528]

(7) what discussions he has had with representatives of the higher education sector on the report of the Higher Education Funding Council for England on "Diverse provision in higher education: options and challenges"; [57529]

(8) if he will *(a)* undertake and *(b)* publish an assessment of the risks to the public higher education sector of the expansion of private higher education providers; [57574]

(9) if he will bring forward proposals to mitigate the risks associated with an expansion of private provision in higher education identified by the Higher Education Funding Council of England in its report on "Diverse provision in higher education: options and challenges". [57575]

Mr Willetts: The future regulatory regime for all providers of higher education will be considered in the forthcoming White Paper. This will set out the Government's proposals to encourage a more diverse and competitive higher education sector alongside an appropriate regulatory regime, which ensures high standards and protects students. An impact assessment covering any proposed regulatory changes will be published alongside the White Paper.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England's (HEFCE) report "Diverse provision in higher education: options and challenges" was sent to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), on 28 July 2010. The Department welcomed the report as a valuable contribution to our thinking on how to encourage high quality and diverse provision that offers students a wider choice. The Secretary of State and I requested that the report be made publicly available in the annual grant letter to HEFCE on 20 December 2010. HEFCE published the report in February and is available at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/learning/flexible/statement.htm

The Secretary of State and I have not held specific discussions on the HEFCE report with representatives of the higher education sector.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish his White Paper on higher education. [57974]

Mr Willetts: We will publish our Higher Education White Paper shortly.

The White Paper will set out major reform of the English higher education system. Reform of this scale warrants careful consideration so we have decided to take time to develop it.

Investment: North-East

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage investment in the north-east. [57883]

Mr Prisk: The Government have invited both the Tees Valley and North Eastern Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to establish their governance arrangements bringing business and civic leaders work together to drive sustainable economic growth and create the conditions for private sector job growth in their communities.

These LEPs have been invited to submit proposals for Enterprise Zones which will benefit from:

A business rate discount worth up to £275,000 per business over a five year period;

All business rate growth within the Enterprise Zone for a period of at least 25 years will be retained by the local area, to support the Partnership's economic priorities and ensure that Enterprise Zone growth is reinvested locally;

Government help to develop radically simplified planning approaches for the Zone, for example, existing Local Development Orders;

Government support to ensure that superfast broadband is rolled out throughout the Zone, achieved through guaranteeing the most supportive regulatory environment and, if necessary, public funding.

Further to these incentives the Government will work with LEPs on additional options, to suit local circumstances, including consideration of:

Enhanced capital allowances for plant and machinery, in a limited number of cases and subject to State Aid, where there is a strong focus on manufacturing;

Tax increment finance to support the long-term viability of the area;

The north also benefited from £57 million in the first round of the Regional Growth Fund which provides funding for high-quality transport infrastructure, apprenticeships and support for science.

The Government introduced a National Insurance Contributions holiday starting on 22 June 2010 up until 5 September 2013 providing new businesses that start up outside the greater south-east with a substantial reduction in their employer contributions.

UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) is the UK's national trade and investment promotion agency, and leads on delivering a whole-of-Government approach to attracting high quality, high value investment to the UK. Support for inward investment in England, including the north-east, is provided by a new national UKTI-led service outsourced to the private sector. As part of this national inward investment service, a UKTI Investment Services team in Durham will work with local partners, including LEPs, to attract high quality inward investment projects to the north-east.

Knowledge Economy: Liverpool

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he has taken to encourage the growth of the knowledge economy in the Liverpool city region. [58156]

Mr Willetts: The Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has identified the knowledge economy as one of its four key priorities. A plan to accelerate key areas of the economy has been devised by the City Region's Knowledge Economy Group, comprising representatives from The Mersey Partnership, the university of Liverpool, Liverpool John Moores university, Liverpool Vision and some of the City Region's key knowledge based businesses. Proposals in the plan could secure an additional 58,000 jobs and in excess of £217 million added GVA—gross value added—for the region's knowledge economy by 2022.

The LEP has received £45,000 from the BIS LEP Capacity Fund, to help local partners better understand their business environment and to identify the actions they need to take to drive their priorities forward.

A project to stimulate small and medium enterprises (SMEs) growth in Liverpool through media advocacy has been awarded to the *Liverpool Echo* from the Regional Growth Fund. This will result in grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 to SMEs (including those in the Knowledge Economy) together with mentoring and coaching.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the representation of micro-businesses on local enterprise partnerships. [58214]

Mr Prisk: As set out in the White Paper on local growth, the Government will normally expect to see business representatives form half the board, with a prominent business leader in the chair. Furthermore, we encourage board members to be drawn from a breadth of experience from micro-enterprises through to large businesses, and representing the key sectors in the Local Enterprise Partnership area.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many and what proportion of companies on local enterprise partnership boards represent micro-businesses; [58215]

(2) how many and what proportion of companies on local enterprise partnership boards represent small businesses; [58216]

(3) how many and what proportion of companies on local enterprise partnership boards represent medium-sized businesses. [58217]

Mr Prisk: To date 13 Local Enterprise Partnership Boards have been recognised by the Government. These have a total of 83 private sector members of which 12% represent micro businesses (0-9 employees), 17% represent small businesses (10-49 employees) and 13% represent medium businesses (50-249 employees).

Medicine: Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* undergraduate and *(b)* postgraduate places at each university for (i) nursing and (ii) allied health professional qualifications in (A) the last three years and (B) the next three years. [57918]

Anne Milton: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 4 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 847-48W.

Micro-business Regulation

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the average wage of employees of micro-businesses of each *(a)* gender and *(b)* age group for those in (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employment. [48321]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 23 March 2011]:* The Department for Business Innovation and Skills does not hold information on the average wages of employees working for micro-businesses. The Office for National Statistics produces official statistics on employees and earnings but are unable to provide data on these breakdowns.

Public Transport

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Transport on the effects of the *(a)* frequency and *(b)* cost of public transport services on (i) commuters and (ii) job seekers in (A) Coventry and (B) the west midlands. [51023]

Mr Davey: There have been no official discussions on these topics recently.

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on the second round of the Regional Growth Fund; and if he will make a statement. [57973]

Mr Prisk: Round 2 of the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) opened on the 12 April and will close at noon 1 July 2011. Just under £1 billion will be available in this round.

To support Round 2 there are currently a series of RGF roadshows travelling across England, chaired by Lord Heseltine and Sir Ian Wrigglesworth. These offer presentations on the Fund's objectives, clinics on the RGF application process and programme bids, and offer potential bidders an individual session to discuss their proposed bid. To date these events have been very well received.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the level of fees for part-time university courses in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [57975]

Mr Willetts: We do not hold information on average fee levels for part-time courses in 2011/12. The majority of institutions have not yet set their fees for part-time courses for 2012/13 so it is too early to tell what the average fees will be. From September 2012, eligible new part-time students will have access to loans to cover the full cost of their regulated tuition fee.

Students: Finance

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 717W, on students: finance, how much his Department spent on communicating student finance arrangements to prospective students, adjusted for inflation, in each year from 1999-2000 to 2010-11. [56290]

Mr Willetts: In the 2010/11 financial year £37,936 (£29,219 in 2000/01 prices) was spent on preparatory research for our current higher education student finance campaign. Thus far in 2011/12 £1.475 million has been allocated to this campaign which includes the £150,000 previously cited for the costs of employing an advertising agency.

For the 2010/11 financial year the Student Loan Company spent £1,650,243 (£1,271,040 in 2000/01 prices) communicating student finance arrangements to prospective students.

The following tables provide the figures adjusted for inflation in real terms at 2000/01 prices, the year from which the first figures are quoted.

Original Table

Financial year	*Department for Business, Innovation and Skills student finance publicity budget*	*Student Loans Company communications budget*
1999-2000	—	—
2000-01	90,000	—
2001-02	1,660,000	—
2002-03	2,025,000	—
2003-04	4,000,000	—
2004-05	2,000,000	280,598
2005-06	4,500,000	1,483,900
2006-07	4,100,000	1,097,092
2007-08	4,500,000	3,288,351
2008-09	4,000,000	2,851,560
2009-10	60,000	5,263,030

Expenditure adjusted for inflation in real terms at 2000-01 prices

Financial year	*Department for Business. Innovation and Skills student finance publicity budget*	*Student Loans Company communications budget*
1999-2000	—	—
2000-01	90,000	—
2001-02	1,623,677	—
2002-03	1,918,881	—
2003-04	3,686,365	—
2004-05	1,793,323	251,601
2005-06	3,963,102	1,306,855
2006-07	3,493,549	934,816
2007-08	3,727,581	2,723,910
2008-09	3,224,205	2,298,504
2009-10	47,553	4,171,214

The inflationary figures have been obtained using the 'gross domestic product time series' tool available on the HM Treasury website, which enables figures to be adjusted year on year for inflation, via this URL:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_gdp_fig.htm

Vocational Training

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to address skills shortages nationally. [57977]

Mr Hayes: The coalition's skills strategy set out our plans to address the nation's skills shortages and realise our ambition to create a world-class skills base. We are addressing current weaknesses in the vital intermediate technical skills that are increasingly important as jobs become more highly skilled and technological change accelerates. We have already made significant progress in the short time since the skills strategy's publication.

We have placed apprenticeships at the heart of the system, expanding, improving and reshaping them so that technician level—Level 3—becomes the level to which learners and employers aspire. We are creating clear routes from apprenticeships to higher level training. Alongside apprenticeships there will be a wider and more flexible system of vocational qualifications that meets the needs of the economy.

In addition, we have established the Growth and Innovation Fund to support employers to be more ambitious about raising skills to reach their growth potential. And we have refocused the role of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills to be a true vehicle for economic growth and social partnership, with employers, trade unions and others coming together to give effective leadership on skills. One of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills strategic objectives is to provide high quality labour market intelligence to enable the supply of skills to be matched with demand more effectively.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many CCTV cameras are installed in and around the Government Equalities Office premises; and how much such cameras *(a)* cost to install and *(b)* cost to operate in the latest period for which figures are available. [56845]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) is based within the Home Office's main premises at 2 Marsham street, therefore the responsibility for procurement, installation and running costs of such equipment falls to the Home Office and not GEO.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 9 June 2011

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadcasting: Alcoholic Drinks

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with Ofcom on the effects on informed consent to participation in a television broadcast by a subject of the provision of alcohol by the broadcaster. [58726]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State has had no discussions with Ofcom on this matter.

Government Art Collection

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many works in the Government art collection are currently on display; and how many such works are on display in London. [58600]

Mr Vaizey: As of 7 June, there are 9,039 works on display, of which 3,472 are on display in London.

Olympic Games 2012

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to encourage the engagement of young people in the north-east in the London 2012 Olympics. [58397]

Hugh Robertson: It is important that children and young people from across the UK are actively encouraged to participate in the wide range of opportunities created by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Over 17,000 schools and colleges across the UK have registered for LOCOG's education programme Get Set, 790 of those are in the north-east—61.1% of the total number in the region. Through the Inspire Programme, over 1,200 cultural and sporting programmes across the UK have been awarded Inspire Marks, including 50 in the north-east. Projects such as 'Kite Mark' and 'Northern Design Competition' will assist in engaging young people with London 2012.

The north-east has secured £1.53 million from the Legacy Trust for the region's 'Generation 2012' project. This initiative provides opportunities for regional cultural organisations and young people to work together to develop up to 10 high quality, aspirational 2012 projects in the region, bringing people together for community activities of all kinds.

In November I launched the 'Places People Play' programme, which will bring sporting legacy to life in communities across the country. This will be achieved by transforming the places where people play sport, inspiring all to make sport happen at a local level and creating sporting opportunities that give everyone the chance to become part of the mass participation legacy. Further detail can be found at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/7565.aspx

In addition, we are introducing the School Games, a new school sport competition which will provide more opportunities for pupils in schools across the UK to compete in sport through a vibrant programme of regular intra- and inter-school competitions.

Tourism

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how many local tourism centres sponsored by his Department are in operation; [58500]

(2) how many local tourism centres sponsored by his Department are expected to close in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [58501]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not directly sponsor local tourism centres. Over the next four years, we are though allocating nearly £33 million to VisitEngland to help support existing and new local destination management organisations in developing the visitor economy in their own areas.

UK Film Council

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the cost to the public purse has been of the abolition of the UK Film Council. [58777]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 4 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 753W.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) on what date special advisers in his Department last used the Government car pool to travel in an official capacity; and on how many occasions a special adviser in his Department has travelled to their home address using the Government car pool since May 2010; [56086]

(2) how much his Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56092]

Norman Baker: Special advisers are not entitled to use of a car from the Government car pool and no cars from the pool have been used by special advisers to travel on official business or to travel to their home addresses.

The Department has not incurred any expenditure in relation to use by special advisers of buses, commercial or private aircraft, or Government cars since May 2010.

Civil servants and special advisers can use a taxi when this is justified and in accordance with departmental rules and the requirements of the Civil Service Management

Code. The Department has a call-off account with the Government Car and Despatch Agency for a low-carbon taxi-style service known as the Green car service. On one occasion since May 2010 a special adviser has used a Green car, at a cost of £36. This was in accordance with departmental rules for civil servants' use of taxis in relation to late night working.

The Department has spent £568 on train tickets for special advisers over the past year.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1300W, on motor vehicles: registration, if he will bring forward proposals to compensate the owners of limousines currently on the road who were granted new vehicle registration documents without the evidence required to meet the single vehicle approval test. [58356]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Transport will not bring forward any proposals to compensate owners of limousines.

In carrying out its statutory functions and dealing with applications for registration, the Driver and Vehicle licensing Agency (DVLA) does not owe a duty of care to third party purchasers who may subsequently rely on vehicle registration certificates when entering into a commercial transaction.

Navigation: General Lighthouse Authority

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work he is undertaking with the General Lighthouse Authority to *(a)* continue maintenance of LORAN-C radionavigation and *(b)* to develop a full eLORAN radionavigation system. [58503]

Mike Penning: The provision of general marine aids to navigation around our coasts is the statutory responsibility of the three General Lighthouse Authorities. The General Lighthouse Authorities consider the need, usage and number of aids to navigation, including LORAN-C and its associated infrastructure.

The General Lighthouse Authorities' Research and Radionavigation Directorate is undertaking the development of the eLORAN system in the UK.

Railways

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has carried out research into the productivity of business passengers while travelling by rail. [55447]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 13 May 2011]:* The Department for Transport commissioned a consortium led by Mott MacDonald to undertake a study of rail business travellers in order to obtain direct evidence on the productive use of travel time during the course of work. The final report "Productive Use of Rail Travel Time and the Valuation of Travel Time Savings for Rail Business Travellers" was received by the Department in June 2009.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to amend the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation target for the obligation period beginning on 15 April 2012; and what steps he has taken to increase the level of sustainability of biofuels for use in vehicles. [58061]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport is currently consulting on amendments to the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation, to implement the renewable energy and fuel quality directives.

We do not propose to make any changes to the current obligation levels that are set out in the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007 as amended. However, we propose a legal obligation on the Secretary of State for Transport to keep the level under review and to consider what additional measures will be required to ensure that the UK delivers the requirements of the renewable energy and fuel quality directives in the period 2014 to 2020. This will enable us to establish a stable biofuel policy that will allow industry to robustly plan for the period 2014 to 2020.

The consultation proposes to introduce mandatory sustainability criteria. These include that biofuels, with some exceptions, must deliver greenhouse gas savings of at least 35% when compared to fossil fuels and that biofuels must not be sourced from areas of high biodiversity, or from high carbon soils (e.g. rainforests or wetlands). All biofuels will have to meet these mandatory sustainability criteria in order to be counted towards meeting the targets in the renewable energy and fuel quality directives, and therefore receive rewards under an amended Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation scheme.

Rescue Services: Northern Ireland

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what date he expects to make an announcement on the future of coastguard stations in Northern Ireland. [58496]

Mike Penning: We expect to make an announcement about the modernisation of Her Majesty's Coastguard before the House rises for summer recess on 19 July.

Roads: Regulation

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons no organisation representing cyclists was included among the experts championing the Red Tape Challenge on Road Transport; and if he will nominate such an expert as soon as possible. [58548]

Mike Penning: There are relatively few regulations governing the use of cycling—only five out of over 400 in the whole of this section of the red tape challenge.

However, we are still interested to hear what cyclists have to say about those five—and we have recently met with representatives of British Cycling, CTC and the Bicycle Association of Great Britain to discuss the red tape challenge. We are working with everyone across the whole road transport sector, as we want to ensure as many people as possible get involved.

WALES

Freedom of Information

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 her office has received since her appointment; and what the time taken to provide a full response to the request was in each case. [58507]

Mr David Jones: Since my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales appointment, the Wales Office has received 171 Freedom of Information Act requests. The Act requires a full response within 20 working days or within an agreed extension to undertake a public interest test. For the 2010-11 year, my Department replied to 94% of requests within this deadline, compared with 91% for 2009-10.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Theft

Keith Vaz: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many cases of theft from the parliamentary estate have resulted in a prosecution in each year since 2006. [57932]

John Thurso: The following table gives the number of individual prosecutions for theft from the parliamentary estate:

	Number of individuals prosecuted for theft
2006	1
2007	0
2008	3
2009	1
2010	0
2011	0

Keith Vaz: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what steps the House of Commons Service plans to take to combat recent cases of theft from the parliamentary estate. [57933]

John Thurso: We do not comment on the detailed security measures in place across the parliamentary estate. I would encourage the right hon. Member to speak to the Serjeant at Arms directly.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Crown Relocations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many contracts the Government Equalities Office holds with Crown Relocations; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58637]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office does not hold any contracts with Crown Relocations.

Members: Correspondence

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities when she plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member from Erith and Thamesmead of 15 March 2011 on her constituent the Reverend Geoff Clark. [58219]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 8 June 2011]:* A response to the hon. Member's letter on her constituent, the Reverend Geoff Clark, was made on 2 June 2011.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare: EU Action

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has received legal advice on instances where a single EU member state has taken unilateral action on animal welfare matters which has led subsequently to a change of EU policy in line with that action; and if she will make a statement. [58071]

Mr Paice: There is no central record kept of such legal advices, nor is there any recollection of any occasion where, since coming into office, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has from within DEFRA received legal advice of instances where individual EU member states have taken unilateral action on animal welfare matters which has subsequently led to a change of EU policy in line with that unilateral action.

Apples

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to encourage the stocking of English apples by supermarkets. [58387]

Mr Paice: Retailers and apple grower trade associations are working together to meet growing consumer demand for English apples. All fruit and vegetables are required by law to have their country origin on the item, shelf or the package. In many grocery stores, British apples can be recognised by the Union Flag on the packaging or the liner for boxes of loose apples. The Fruit and Vegetable Taskforce on increasing consumption and production brought together the whole supply chain to identify and unblock barriers; they reported in summer 2010 and agreed an action plan in October 2010. The action plan was divided into production, supply chain and consumption: Most recommendations, which are fairly technical, have made significant progress and we are looking to produce an updated progress report later in the year.

Circuses: Animal Welfare

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date her Department removed from its website the impact assessment undertaken in respect of regulation of wild animals acts in travelling circuses. [57419]

Mr Paice: As a matter of routine documents are only held on the consultation section of the DEFRA website for a year after they are first published, so the Impact Assessment in question was removed shortly after the end of December 2010.

Departmental CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many CCTV cameras are installed in and around her Department's premises; and how much such cameras cost to *(a)* install and *(b)* operate in the latest period for which figures are available. [56843]

Richard Benyon: We currently have 663 cameras situated at 56 DEFRA locations, but this figure is continually reducing as we have embarked upon an estate rationalisation project.

The cost of carrying out planned maintenance on the cameras alone is currently in the order of £70,000 per annum excluding reactive repairs which fluctuate in value.

The costs of installations are difficult to separately identify as they are normally part of wider project costs.

Departmental Data Protection

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many contracts her Department holds which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; to which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each such contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas under each such contract. [55737]

Richard Benyon: The Department has one contract which permits personal data to be stored overseas on a case by case assessed basis and with written approval. The contract includes a facility for personnel in the core Department as well as some Executive Agencies and NDPBs to subscribe to online training, with packages covering everything from IT skills to professional development. 889 personnel have subscribed to the service and the data are stored in the United States of America. The purpose of storing the data is so that individuals can access their online training records, the nature of which means that the record of the training undertaken needs to be saved.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many subscription or membership fees for *(a)* the Chartered Institute of Public Relations and *(b)* other professional organisations were paid from budgets of her Department and its agencies in respect of their staff in each of the last three years. [57350]

Richard Benyon: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has made no payments directly to the Chartered Institute of Public Relations in the last three years.

The Department is, however, unable to identify from central records how many subscription or membership fees have been paid to professional organisations. Most subscriptions and memberships are paid direct by staff from their own resources and claimed, authorised and paid through the staff expenses system. To identify the number would incur additional analysis of all expense transactions and this would incur disproportionate cost.

Executive agencies

Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS).

The numbers of subscription and membership fees paid is as follows:

	Number of subscriptions/memberships		
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Chartered Institute of Public Relations	0	0	0
Other professional organisations[1]	30	35	52

[1] These include membership of scientific bodies

Rural Payments Agency

The number of subscription and membership fees paid is as follows:

2009-10: 45

2010-11: 119.

RPA is unable to provide costs for 2008-09 or a breakdown as the information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

RPA has made no payments to the Chartered Institute of Public Relations in the last three years.

Animal Health

The number of subscription and membership fees paid is as follows:

Chartered Institute of Public Relations:

2008-09: 0

2009-10: 5

2010-11: 2.

Chartered Institute of Personnel Development:

2008-09:6

2009-10:5

2010-11: 15.

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons:

The subscriptions for this body are in two parts. Part 1 is the individual membership and is paid on behalf of our veterinary staff. Part 2 is the payment in respect of each of our premises which dispense veterinary medicines.

2009-10:

Individual subscriptions for 328 veterinary staff.

Premises Subscriptions for 48 premises.

2010-11:

Individual subscriptions for 321 veterinary staff.

Premises subscriptions for 48 premises.

2011-12

Individual subscriptions for 302 veterinary staff.

Premises subscriptions for 48 premises.

Association of Personnel Assistants

2010-11: 1.

Note:

This is the first year that this subscription was paid.

Association of Chief Executives

2009-10: 1

2010-11: 1.

Note:

These are the only two years this subscription has been paid.

Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA)

The number of subscription and membership fees paid is as follows:

(a) No amounts have been paid to Chartered Institute of Public Relations

(b) Subscription and membership fees paid to other professional organisations, is as follows:

2008-09: 204

2009-10: 362

2010-11: 235.

Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)

The number of subscription and membership fees paid is as follows:

(a) No amounts have been paid to Chartered Institute of Public Relations

(b) Subscriptions to other professional organisations:

2010-11: 40

2009-10: 41

2008-09: 35.

Food and Environment Research Agency

The number of subscription and membership fees paid is as follows:

	2009	*2010*	*2011*
(a) the Chartered Institute of Public Relations	0	0	0
(b) Other professional organisations	162	135	106

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department plans to cease to fund any of its functions over the period of the comprehensive spending review. [55187]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is not planning to cease funding of any broad DEFRA functions. However, DEFRA has taken the opportunity presented by the spending review to consider those things that only it can and must do, and how we can deliver those. Where we have been carrying out activities that we have decided should no longer be done by DEFRA, we are ceasing funding for such work. DEFRA is prioritising its resources in order to achieve the priorities in the Department's Business Plan. As part of the arm's length bodies review we are planning a reduction in the number of bodies from over 90 to less than 40.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the annual amount of consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions produced by the UK. [57678]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 7 June 2011]:* In 2008 DEFRA published an evidence study that measured the UK's carbon dioxide emissions using a consumption-based approach, titled "Embedded carbon emissions indicator—EV02033". We are now carrying out further work to update these findings. The Centre for Sustainability Accounting has recently estimated that in 2008 greenhouse gas emissions relating to UK consumption totalled 1,076 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent.

Origin Marking: Israel

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason the guidelines on place of origin labelling issued by her Department on 10 December 2009 do not apply to all products on sale in the UK that originate from Israeli settlements. [58697]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 548W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many new asylum cases initiated in each year are awaiting resolution. [53756]

Damian Green: The following table shows the number of pending asylum applications (made since 1 April 2006) as at 31 March 2011, by year of application. These data include cases with no decision to date and those with an outstanding appeal. They do not include figures relating to cases that are appeal rights exhausted or are awaiting judicial review.

Pending applications received for asylum since April 2006 in the United Kingdom as at 31 March 2011[1, 2, 3], by year of application[5]

	Total pending	
Year of application	*Total (including dependants)*	*Of whom: Principal applicants*
2006[4]	315	265
2007	915	725
2008	1,830	1,410
2009	2,370	1,860
2010	4,405	3,305
2011	4,615	3,630
Total	14,450	11,190

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 ('—' = 0, • = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] For the figures which include dependants further disaggregations by age, gender and nationality will be available on the EUROSTAT website:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search_database

[3] Numbers pending either initial decision or further judicial appeal, but excluding those who have lodged a judicial review

[4] Applications received for asylum since 1 April 2006.

[5] Provisional figures.

Further information on asylum is available from the Control of Immigration publications which are available in the Library of the House and the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics

In addition, from this summer information on our new asylum performance framework will be published on a regular basis—with key statistics disaggregated by gender—so that the House and any member of the public can scrutinise what we are achieving and hold us to account. It is my intention that these data will include all unconcluded cases. These will include those that are appeal rights exhausted and those whose discretionary leave has expired—in addition to those awaiting a decision or appeal outcome as identified above.

Asylum: Housing

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to ensure that housing provided by the National Asylum Support Service meets the needs of tenants. [58319]

Damian Green: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 23-24W.

Electronic Surveillance

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what supervision and control processes her Department is putting in place to regulate the use of Geotime and other software used for covert monitoring of the movements of individual citizens. [56359]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 19 May 2011]*: Geotime and other similar software provide an analytical tool for the visual representation of data that has already been acquired lawfully for specific purposes from other sources. Anyone using such software to analyse data is bound by the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and other relevant legislation.

Entry Clearances

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on *(a)* the (i) cost to the visitor and (ii) efficiency of the UK's tourist visa-processing operations and *(b)* the effect of such operations on the visitor economy. [58147]

Damian Green: UK Border Agency officials meet regularly with representatives of the tourist industry to listen to their views on the visa service offered to tourists from overseas, and to consider how the service may be further improved.

The Government recognise the UK's position as a top global tourist destination and the importance of the visitor route to the UK economy. A total of 1.2 million tourist visas were issued last year, up 14 % from 2009. We provide a good visa service to visitors from overseas and our fees and processing times are competitive compared with those offered by other countries. Our customer service standards for visa processing times are published on our website

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas

as are details of the performance of each of our visa application centres overseas. We aim to process 90% of tourist visas within three weeks and meet this target in the vast majority of cases Nevertheless, we continue to look at ways of improving the service further while maintaining the security of our border.

Extradition

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many UK nationals were extradited to the US in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007, *(e)* 2008 and *(f)* 2009; [58483]

(2) how many cases of extradition of US nationals to the UK took place in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007, *(e)* 2008 and *(f)* 2009. [58484]

Damian Green: Nationality records have not been historically recorded in extradition cases between the UK and the United States. This is because neither country can refuse extradition requests from the other on the basis of the subject's nationality.

The following table shows the number of UK nationals extradited to United States from the UK (England and Wales) over the period 2004-2009.

Information regarding the nationality of those extradited to the UK from the United States has not in the past been routinely recorded. Records have been kept since 2007. In that time there are no records of US nationals having been extradited to the UK from the United States in 2007 and 2009. One US national was extradited in 2008. This does not include cases where nationality was disputed or unclear.

Number of UK nationals extradited to United States from the UK[1] over the period 2004-09

	Number
2004	2
2005	6
2006	[2]10
2007	0
2008	2
2009	[3]4

[1] For the purposes of the question, we have taken the "UK" as meaning England and Wales. Scotland deals with its own US cases—as did Northern Ireland until 1 April 2008.

[2] Includes one US/UK dual national.

[3] Includes one UK/Iran dual national.

Harassment

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many potential offences under section *(a)* 2, *(b)* 3, *(c)* 4 and *(d)* 5 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 were recorded in 2009-10; [58315]

(2) how many complaints received by police forces of potential offences under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 during *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010 were not proceeded with by police forces or prosecutors. [58316]

Lynne Featherstone: Offences recorded under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 are classified under the Home Office offence classification of 'Harassment'. There were 53,029 offences of harassment recorded in 2009-10. It is not possible to identify centrally how many offences were recorded under each section of the Act.

Information on the number of complaints that were not proceeded with is not available centrally.

Visas: Appeals

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to removing the right of appeal for people who have been refused visas to enter the UK for up to six months; and what assessment she has made of the effect of implementation of such a measure on the number of people who will reapply. [57983]

Damian Green: The refusal of a visa to enter the UK for up to six months attracts a full right of appeal only where the applicant is applying to visit a family member. In all other categories of temporary entry clearance the right of appeal is limited to human rights and race relations grounds. Bringing the right of appeal for persons seeking to visit family members into line with all other temporary visit visas is clearly an important area where we would want to seek wide views and on which we would wish to consult formally.

It is open to someone who has been refused a visa to visit a family member to apply again and provide further information in support of their application that addresses the reasons why their initial application was refused, which are set out in a comprehensive written refusal. Entry clearance staff work to a service standard of concluding 90% of visit visa applications within 15 days (performance was 95% in 2010-11), so the outcome of a second application will be known much sooner than the outcome of an appeal. We have not carried out an assessment of whether all those who currently appeal would reapply, were the appeal right in this category removed.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Employment

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of armed forces veterans left the armed forces and found employment in each year since 2000. [58515]

Mr Robathan: All service personnel are entitled to some form of resettlement support either at unit level or through the Career Transition Partnership (CTP), with lifetime job finding support through either the Officers' Association or the Regular Forces Employment Association. Based on a survey of service leavers, who were entitled to resettlement provision through the CTP, the following table shows those who found employment within six months of being discharged.

	Employed within six months of discharge (percentage)
2000	95
2001	95
2002	95
2003	96
2004	96
2005	94
2006	95
2007	96
2008	93
2009	93

A limited amount of employment information exists for those service leavers who were not entitled to resettlement provision through the CTP. Since 1 April 2006 , we estimate that some 77% of service leavers in this group gained employment within six months of leaving.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average length of time was for armed forces veterans to find post-service employment in each year since 2000. [58516]

Mr Robathan: Information on the length of time to find employment is not held prior to 1 April 2005. The following table shows the average length of time to find post-service employment in each year since then, based on a selected sample.

	Number of days to gain employment
2005-06	37
2006-07	42
2007-08	33
2008-09	32
2009-10	55

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in what sectors armed forces veterans found post-service employment in the latest period for which figures are available. [58517]

Mr Robathan: In 2010, service leavers found post-service employment within 44 industry sectors across the public, private and voluntary/community sets. These industry sectors are diverse and range from accountancy and finance through to sports and leisure.

British Sovereign Base

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Lord Ashcroft will be given an official level of security clearance as senior independent adviser to the study of British sovereign base areas in Cyprus. [58514]

Dr Fox: The noble Lord, Lord Ashcroft has been given the appropriate security clearance.

EU Defence Policy

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the European Defence Agency's interim report on the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy. [57866]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Government broadly welcome the interim report on "Common Security and Defence Policy/military elements" issued by High Representative Baroness Ashton as a contribution to the debate, in particular its focus on improving EU/NATO relations and more effective capability development by European partners. However, we have expressed our reservations on the report's proposals for discussions on increasing the scope for common funding of battlegroups as we have consistently made clear our opposition to such common funding. Discussions on these topics will continue with EU partners as part of the ongoing policy debate.

Military Alliances

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the pooling and sharing of military assets. [57867]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), has regular discussions with his European counterparts on pooling and sharing. We believe that it is important that the UK seeks and exploits all opportunities to promote greater burden sharing and increased co-operation, in order to optimise capability development in Europe.

More specifically, I attended the EU Foreign Affairs Council in Defence Ministers' formation on 24 May 2011, which included pooling and sharing as a topic for discussion. The UK took the opportunity at the discussions to re-emphasize the point that national commitments to any pooling and sharing initiatives must be voluntary, consistent with the fact that each member of the Council is a sovereign nation state.

Regulation

Mr Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the name is of each body responsible for regulation of operations at his Department's site at Coulport; and what plans each has for regulation of the site. [58508]

Peter Luff: There are a number of internal and external bodies responsible for regulation of operations at Royal Naval Armaments Depot (RNAD) Coulport. The external bodies are the Health and Safety Executive, including their nuclear arm, the Office of Nuclear Regulation; the Scottish Environment Protection Agency; and local authorities. These bodies are responsible for developing their own plans for the regulation of the site, but we work in close co-operation with them.

Internal Ministry of Defence (MOD) regulators include the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator, the Defence Ordnance Safety Group, the Fuel and Gas Safety Regulator, and the Defence Fire and Risk Management Organisation. The MOD plans to maintain continuity of regulation during the transition to, and following the implementation of, the new arrangements at RNAD Coulport.

Departmental Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data his Department has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months; and what such research and data collection exercises undertaken by the Department have not been amended in that period. [56755]

Peter Luff: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Terrorism: Detainees

Mr Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 1 September 2004, *Official Report*, columns 715-6W, on the Ministry of Defence, what the locations are of the two high value detainees; whether the classification of the two detainees as high value was a UK or US classification; and whether the two detainees were part of the US High Value Terrorist Detainee Program. [54857]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* The two individuals referred to were both very senior Iraqi members of Saddam Hussein's regime. I can confirm that the UK would classify them both as high value detainees. One of them is currently serving 15 years in prison in Baghdad, having been convicted of several different offences. The other was executed by the Iraqi authorities in early 2010 for crimes against humanity. Whether the detainees were part of a US program is a matter for the US to comment on.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider the merits of introducing a mobility component of attendance allowance to ensure that a person with mobility needs is eligible for the same level of financial support at the age of 65 as they are at 64. [58628]

Maria Miller: We have no plans to amend the entitlement conditions for attendance allowance to introduce a mobility component. It is normal for pensions and benefit schemes to contain different provisions for people at different stages of their lives. Disability living allowance, which has a mobility component, is intended to focus additional help with the extra cost of disability on people who have the very considerable disadvantage of being severely disabled earlier in life and who as a consequence have less opportunity to work, earn and save compared to non-disabled people.

If a person claims disability living allowance, including the mobility component, before their 65th birthday, it can remain in payment beyond age 65 as long as the conditions of entitlement remain satisfied.

Attendance allowance provides help with the disability-related extra costs of people who experience the onset of disability after age 65. Based on the need for personal care, this help is part of the wide range of support that the Government make available to older people so that they can have a decent and secure income in retirement.

Disability Living Allowance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on disability benefits. [58462]

Chris Grayling: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), has regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues and other stakeholders to discuss a range of issues, including disability benefits.

Future Jobs Fund: Kirklees

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Kirklees have been placed in employment through the Future Jobs Fund. [56665]

Chris Grayling: The most recent Young Person's Guarantee statistics were published on 13 April 2011. Statistics are available on the Future Jobs Fund which covers the period from October 2009 to the end of January 2011.

There have been a total of 690 FJF funded temporary placements within the Kirklees local authority area between October 2009 and January 2011

A breakdown of this information can be found in the following table.

Number of people in the Kirklees local authority that have started FJF funded employment since October 2009

	Starts
October 2009	*
November 2009	20
December 2009	20
January 2010	20
February 2010	30
March 2010	60
April 2010	20
May 2010	40
June 2010	40
July 2010	60
August 2010	60
September 2010	80
October 2010	50
November 2010	80
December 2010	40
January 2011	90
Total	690

Notes:

1. Data Source—DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database April 2011.
2. Due to Data Protection protocols, values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a '*' to avoid unnecessary disclosure. Additionally, any figures above 10 are rounded to the nearest 10. Due to rounding, totals may not be the sum of the individual cells. Months are calendar months.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Jobseekers, Disability and Work Programme Division

Income Support: Young People

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people aged between 16 and 18 years were in receipt of income support in each category in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [58611]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is given as follows.

Income support 16 to 18-year-old claimants by statistical group in Great Britain, each quarter February 2010 to November 2010

	All 16 to 18-year-olds receiving IS	*Incapacity benefits*	*Lone parent*	*Carer*	*Others receiving IS*
February 2010	40,730	650	15,660	770	23,650
May 2010	40,060	400	15,690	740	23,220
August 2010	39,060	200	15,060	730	23,060
November 2010	39,170	140	15,120	780	23,130

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data have been compiled using the claimant's Income Support Statistical Group, this is a hierarchical variable. A person who fits into more than one category will only appear in the top-most one for which they are eligible.
3. Lone parents are defined as claimants on income support with child under 16 and no partner. Lone parent obligations were introduced from 24 November 2008 affecting the age of the youngest child.
4. Incapacity benefits are defined as those receiving incapacity benefit or disability living allowance.
5. Carers are defined as those receiving carer's allowance.

Source:

100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study data.

Managing Agents

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions his Department has reclaimed money from Atos as a result of unsatisfactory medical advice in each month since May 2010; how much has been reclaimed in each such month; and what proportion of the monetary value of its contract with Atos the total sum reclaimed represents. [58506]

Chris Grayling: Since May 2010 the Department has not needed to claim any money back from Atos Healthcare as they have met all of their targets for medical advice.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on the criteria to determine whether responses to freedom of information requests prejudice the interest of Atos Healthcare and the Department's future dealings with Atos Healthcare or other service providers. [58544]

Chris Grayling: The policy of my Department is to fully comply with our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act. We look to ensure that information shared is properly assessed for privacy, confidentiality (including that of service providers), commercial and public interest and consider each on a "case by case" basis. Where information is requested that is prejudicial to this criteria the Department will consider exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act.

Members: Correspondence

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Minister for Employment plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Weaver Vale of 22 June 2010 and 8 March 2011 on behalf of his constituent Mr Mark Tansley. [58304]

Chris Grayling: Due to an administrative error no reply was sent to my hon. Friend in response to his letter of 22 June 2010 and I apologise for that oversight. However, I understand that a Jobcentre Plus official replied on the same matter direct to my hon. Friend's constituent in response to a separate, related e-mail.

A reply to the letter of 8 March 2011 was sent to my hon. Friend on 13 April 2011.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for East Dunbartonshire dated 13 July 210, reference JS8612. [58486]

Steve Webb: Regrettably, due to an administrative error a reply was not sent to the hon. Member until 9 June 2011 and I apologise for that oversight.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West of 17 February 2011 on support for mortgage interest. [58561]

Chris Grayling: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 1 March 2011.

Mortgages: Barnsley

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Barnsley East constituency received support for mortgage interest payments in each of the last five years. [58138]

Steve Webb: Claimants receiving help with mortgage interest in Barnsley East parliamentary constituency are as follows:

	Total claimants receiving mortgage interest
November 2006	500
August 2007	500
November 2008	[1]400
November 2009	[1]400
November 2010	[1]300

[1] Numbers are based on very few sample cases and are subject to a high degree of sampling variation, therefore these figures should be used as a guide only.

Notes:

1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 100.

2. Figures are based on 5% sample data. All figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation.

4. '—' denotes nil or negligible.

5. Caseload figures have been uprated by using 5% proportions against 100% WPLS data.

6. Figures provided are a point in time estimate at November in each year 2006 and 2008 to 2010. No figures are available for November 2007, therefore we have provided figures as at August/2007.

7. Figures shown above are for Barnsley East for the period November 2010. Prior to this period the parliamentary constituency was named Barnsley East and Mexborough.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% samples.
Work & Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100% data.

Pension Credit

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will prepare and publish an impact assessment in respect of the proposals in the Welfare Reform Bill affecting the qualifying age and entitlement to pension credit; [58493]

(2) if he will estimate the saving which would accrue to the Exchequer if entitlement to pension credit were removed from an individual who reached qualifying age and was a member of a couple the other member of which had not attained the qualifying age; [58749]

(3) if he will estimate the average change in income to *(a)* the individual and *(b)* the couple who would no longer be entitled to pension credit if entitlement to pension credit were removed from an individual who reached qualifying age and was a member of a couple the other member of which had not attained the qualifying age; [58750]

(4) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women would no longer be entitled to pension credit if entitlement to pension credit were removed from individuals who reached qualifying age but were members of a couple the other member of which had not attained the qualifying age in each year between 2013 and 2020. [58751]

Steve Webb: In the Welfare Reform Bill we are taking powers to restrict access to pension credit for couples where one member of the couple is below the qualifying age for pension credit.

We are still considering a range of policy issues relating to couples in this situation. We will publish further information once the policy has been finalised.

We recognise that it is important not to undermine the stability and outcomes for existing pension credit customers, so there will be no change for couples already in receipt of pension credit at the point of change.

There are currently around 100,000 claims to pension credit from couples where one member is below the qualifying age for pension credit, 90,000 of these claimants are male and 10,000 are female.

Pensioner Poverty

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of pensioners lived in poverty in each year between 1981 and 2004. [58363]

Steve Webb: Estimates of pensioner poverty are published in the Households Below Average Incomes series. The most commonly used measure of pensioner poverty relates to those people with income below 60% of contemporary median household income, after housing costs. This is often referred to as relative poverty.

The latest year of data which are available is 2009-10. The following table shows the number and percentage of pensioners with income below 60% of contemporary median household income, after housing costs from 1981 to 2004.

Table 1: Number and proportion of pensioners falling below 60% of contemporary median household income, after housing costs (AHC)

Publication	*Period*	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*
FES(UK)	1981	1.9	20
	1987	2.9	29
	1988 and 1989	3.9	39
	1990 and 1991	3.7	36
	1991 and 1992	3.4	33
	1992 and 1993	3.1	31
	1993-94 to 1994-95	3.0	29
FRS (GB)	1994-95	2.8	28
	1995-96	2.8	28
	1996-97	2.9	29
	1997-98	2.9	29
FRS (UK)	1998-99	2.9	29
	1999-2000	2.8	28
	2000-01	2.7	26
	2001-02	2.7	26
	2002-03	2.5	24
	2003-04	2.2	21
	2004-05	1.9	18

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS) and Family Expenditure Survey (FES).

2. FRS figures are for Great Britain up to 1997-98, and for the United Kingdom from 1998-99, with estimates for Northern Ireland imputed for the years 1998-99 through 2001-02. The reference period for FRS figures is single financial years.

3. FES figures are for the United Kingdom. These are single calendar years for 1981, and 1987; two combined calendar years from 1988 to 1993 and two financial years combined from 1993-94 to 1994-95.

4. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

5. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

6. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) modified equivalisation factors.

7. Proportions of pensioners in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest whole percentage point and numbers of pensioners have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.

8. These statistics are publicly available in the Households Below Average Income Report on the DWP website: http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbai

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP.

In-work Poverty

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce levels of in-work poverty. [57571]

Chris Grayling: Universal credit will reduce the number of individuals in poverty. On reasonable assumptions, the combined impact of take-up and entitlements might lift around 950,000 individuals out of poverty, including 350,000 children and more than 600,000 working-age adults, the vast majority of these people are likely to be in working households.

Child Poverty

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what resources his Department expects to allocate to the implementation of measures set out his Department's report in A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives in each of the next three years. [57651]

Maria Miller: The first national child poverty strategy fulfils the Government's obligations under the Child Poverty Act 2010 and sets out our plans for tackling child poverty from 2011-14. The strategy also provides a comprehensive framework for ending child poverty in the longer term and clearly demonstrates how Government Departments must work together to address and overcome the key drivers of poverty.

The publication of the strategy was set against the backdrop of a huge deficit that this Government inherited and a challenging spending review that placed a high priority on improving the life chances of children and protection of vulnerable families while also making crucial progress in reducing the nation's fiscal debt.

The Government's new strategic direction will dismantle the powerful barriers that keep most disadvantaged families stuck in cycles of poverty. Failure to do so will condemn some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our society to repeatedly finding themselves on one or more of the established pathways to poverty.

We are resolute in our determination to tackle these key drivers of poverty and as such the Government have:

Set aside £2 billion of Department for Work and Pensions spending review settlement over the next four years to fund the implementation of the universal credit.

Established the Work programme, which will offer people seeking employment targeted, personalised help, delivered by contractors drawn from across the private, public and voluntary sectors, as well as social enterprises. Work programme contractors are paid for results, so the cost of the programme will depend on performance, but is expected to be between £3 billion and £5 billion.

Introduced a number of initiatives specifically targeted at the most vulnerable children and families in our society:

the Fairness Premium worth £7.2 billion over the spending review period.

the Pupil Premium worth £2.5 billion a year to 2014-15.

the Early Intervention Grant worth £2,222 million in 2011-12 and £2,037 million in 2012-13.

the 16-19 Bursary Fund which guarantees the most vulnerable 16 to 19-year-olds bursaries of £1,200 a year.

DWP will support further investment in innovative action from local partners which have the scope to improve children's and families' outcomes. We will look to expand existing initiatives which challenge public service commissioners and providers to seek value for money and deliver local solutions to local problems.

Shared Housing

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of units of shared accommodation available *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each local authority area; [58053]

(2) with reference to Table 4 of his Department's impact assessment on Increasing the shared accommodation rate age threshold to 35, what estimate he has made of the number of additional units of shared accommodation available in Brighton and Hove. [58055]

Steve Webb: No national or local estimate has been made of the availability of shared accommodation.

In Table 4 of the impact assessment it is estimated that 840 claimants would have their entitlement reduced to the shared accommodation rate, but not all of these will necessarily seek to move into shared accommodation. Some will seek to move to shared accommodation but others may move in with their family or partner, or find work in order to afford self-contained accommodation.

No estimate has been made of the availability of additional shared accommodation following the increase in the age threshold, which will depend on the responses of claimants and landlords to the extension of the shared accommodation rate to the 25 to 34 age group.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the costs to the discretionary housing payments budget of supporting individuals aged 25 to 34 years affected by the extension of the shared accommodation rate who are judged unable to live in shared accommodation. [58054]

Steve Webb: Claimants who receive the severe disability premium will continue to be exempt from the shared accommodation rate, as will those who have an overnight carer, so it remains the case that people with the most severe disabilities will not be expected to move into shared accommodation, and that the costs of their accommodation will be met without recourse to the discretionary housing payments budget.

Beyond the existing exemptions, the Department does not set criteria by which claimants are considered to be unable to move into shared accommodation.

Local authorities are responsible for deciding, based on any supporting information provided by the claimant, whether a claimant's particular circumstances warrant further financial assistance through a discretionary housing payment. No estimate has been made of the cost to the discretionary housing payment budget.

Shared Housing: Blackpool

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* demand for and *(b)* supply of shared accommodation in Blackpool in its planning for the introduction of the new shared accommodation rate of housing benefit for single people under 35 years old. [57997]

Steve Webb: Based on analysis of the local housing allowance case load in March 2010, it is estimated that 720 claimants in Blackpool would have their local housing allowance reduced to the shared accommodation rate.

No assessment has been made of the impact on demand for shared accommodation, which will depend on how claimants respond to their lower rate of housing benefit. Some will seek to move to shared accommodation but others may move in with their family or partner, or find work in order to afford self-contained accommodation.

No assessment has been made of the supply of shared accommodation in Blackpool. This will depend on the responses of claimants and landlords to the reduced local housing allowance entitlement.

Source:

Equality impact assessment of the increase to the shared accommodation rate age threshold, available on the DWP website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-hb-shared-accommodation-age-threshold.pdf

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to encourage high street chemists to promote awareness of the eligibility of those on disability benefits to buy medical products at zero rate value added tax. [54278]

Maria Miller: Those receiving DLA are eligible for a wide range of additional benefits, which are detailed in an information leaflet issued to all those receiving an award notice for DLA. The leaflet includes links to the Directgov website where advice on medical products at zero rate VAT can be found.

Universal Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate *(a)* the total number of families (i) working 16 or more and (ii) fewer than 16 hours per week which would be better off or worse off and *(b)* the average amount by which they would be better off or worse off, should child care support through the universal credit be provided at (1) 70 per cent. of child care costs up to £125 for one child and £210 for two or more children and (2) 80 per cent. of child care costs up to £100 for one child and £150 for two or more children, excluding any broader impact of the transition to universal credit. [58744]

Maria Miller: Universal credit is an integrated working-age benefit that will provide a basic allowance with additional elements for disability, caring responsibilities, housing costs and children. Therefore, households will receive one payment of universal credit rather than separate payments for the different elements.

As a consequence, separating the child care element from the broader impact of universal credit as a whole could give a misleading impression of whether a household would be better off under universal credit.

A package of transitional protection is being developed in order to ensure that there will be no cash losers purely as a result of the move to universal credit where circumstances remain the same.

Work Capability Assessment

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of work capability assessments made in the last 12 months have been undertaken by *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses and *(c)* others. [58505]

Chris Grayling: Between 1 June 2010 and 31 May 2011 the proportion of work capability assessments undertaken was as follows:

(a) 44.2% (doctors);

(b) 52.8% (nurses);

(c) 3% (others).

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of his Department's employees categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [57610]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no current plans to publish this information, but is committed to transparency and the availability of data and will keep this under review.

Departmental Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data his Department has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months; and what such research and data collection exercises undertaken by the Department have not been amended in that period. [56770]

Mr Lidington: Information in the form requested is not available centrally and cannot be provided without disproportionate cost.

Iraq: Iran

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the government of Iraq on the loudspeakers around Camp Ashraf; and if he will make a statement. [57911]

Alistair Burt: Our embassy officials have noted the presence of loudspeakers at the entrance to Camp Ashraf. The Government of Iraq have told us that the purpose of the loudspeakers is to allow family members to communicate with relatives inside the camp.

We regularly discuss the situation of Camp Ashraf with our international partners and have repeatedly pressed the Government of Iraq to ensure the human rights of the residents of Camp Ashraf are respected.

Israel: Borders

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on the defence of the borders of Israel; and if he will make a statement. [58488]

Alistair Burt: In the run-up to demonstrations on 15 May and 5 June, the embassy in Tel Aviv spoke to Israeli Defence Minister Barak as well as to officials in the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Israeli Defence Forces to urge restraint. Israeli officials said that security forces would act with maximum restraint, but stressed the need to protect Israeli citizens.

Our embassies in Amman, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus and Jerusalem, also lobbied their hosts, underlining the need to avoid provocative actions.

I refer my hon. friend to the statement issued by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) on 6 June.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of seeking changes to the rules of engagement in respect of military action in Libya to allow direct attacks on infrastructure supporting the Gadaffi Government; what discussions he has had with NATO counterparts on this issue; and if he will place in the Library a copy of any legal advice received on this matter. [57098]

Alistair Burt: Any military action in Libya must be carried out in accordance with Resolution 1973 of the United Nations Security Council, and the Government has made clear that they will ensure that any action by British forces in Libya is lawful. We keep in close and regular touch with our North Atlantic Treaty Organisation allies on all aspects of military operations in Libya.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what steps he is taking with his international counterparts to ensure that Hamas accepts each of the Quartet Principles before participating in any negotiations between the government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority; and if he will make a statement; [58252]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential implications of the accord between Fatah and Hamas on the ability of the Palestinian Authority to return to peace negotiations. [58253]

Alistair Burt: We have been absolutely clear—as has the rest of the international community—that we expect to see a government that rejects violence and pursues a negotiated peace. Mahmoud Abbas as both head of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and President of the Palestinian Authority reaffirmed his commitment to those principles in Cairo on 4 May 2011. He also reiterated that he is committed to a two-state solution—Israel and Palestine—based on 1967 borders. But his new government has yet to be formed. The UK will judge a future Palestinian government by its actions and its readiness to work for peace.

Senegal: Prisoners

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens are imprisoned in Senegal. [58003]

Mr Bellingham: Our embassy in Senegal is aware of two British nationals imprisoned in Senegal.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the situation in Abyei. [58748]

Mr Bellingham: We are deeply concerned at the outbreak of violence in Abyei, and have been monitoring the situation closely.

We are aware of reports of the large numbers of displaced people from Abyei. At present, lack of access hinders accurate humanitarian needs assessment, but Non Governmental Organisations and the United Nations (UN) are ready to respond once security and access allows. We are working with the UN to ensure that once security and access is granted, assistance will reach these displaced civilians. The UN has reserves of both shelter and food for such situations.

My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for International Development and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs met with the Sudanese Foreign Minister Karti on 6 June, and I held a further meeting with him on 7 June. We urged the Government of Sudan to fully withdraw their armed forces from Abyei.

Together with our international partners, we are calling on both parties to return to the African Union facilitated negotiations to resolve their differences.

Syrian Arab Republic: Borders

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on border incidents in the Golan Heights. [58745]

Alistair Burt: As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs said in his statement of 6 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 31-35, we are deeply concerned by reports that a number of protesters have been killed and others injured following protests in the Golan Heights. We recognise Israel's right to defend herself. It is vital that any response is proportionate, avoiding lethal use of force unless absolutely necessary, and that the right to protest is respected. I continue to call on all parties, including the Governments of Israel and Syria, to do everything they can to protect the lives of civilians and to avoid provocative acts.

Syrian Arab Republic: Human Rights

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports of human rights abuses in Syria. [58747]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made on 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 32, by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (York) (Mr Hague).

Trade Unions

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has provided any financial support to *(a)* the National Union of Teachers, *(b)* the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, *(c)* the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, *(d)* the National Association of Head Teachers and *(e)* schemes run by those organisations in each year since 1997. [56408]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has no record of providing any financial support to the specified organisations or schemes run by them.

However, budgets in the FCO are devolved to over 260 Posts overseas and as details are not held centrally, this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

UN Security Council

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish the legal advice he has received on the definition of command and control structures, as opposed to infrastructure, in the interpretation of UN Security Council Resolution 1973. [57097]

Alistair Burt: No. Any such legal advice would be privileged.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will ask HM Ambassador to Morocco to raise with the Moroccan authorities allegations of torture, ill treatment and sexual assault of Abid Abou Jihad by a Moroccan police unit; [57514]

(2) if he will ask HM Ambassador to Morocco to raise with the Moroccan authorities the number of complaints of human rights violations filed since 2006 by Saharawi people at the Court of El-Aaiun that mention Corporal Mohamad Elhasouni; [57515]

(3) if he will ask HM Ambassador to Morocco to raise with the Moroccan authorities *(a)* protests organised by Saharawi people on human rights and *(b)* arrests at the regional office of the Moroccan National Council for Human Rights; [57516]

(4) if he will ask HM Ambassador to Morocco to raise with the Moroccan authorities alleged attacks by the Moroccan police on unemployed Saharawi graduates in Boujdour, Western Sahara on 7 May 2011. [57517]

Alistair Burt: UN Security Council Resolution 1979 on United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara's (MINURSO) operations, passed on 27 April 2011, contains language on

> "the importance of improving the human rights situation in Western Sahara and the Tindouf camps"

and

> "encourages the parties to develop independent and credible measures to ensure full respect for human rights."

Morocco has recently created a National Council for Human Rights (CNDH) with an office in Laayoune, Western Sahara. We would expect the CNDH to investigate allegations of human rights abuses in Western Sahara and will be monitoring the performance of this new institution. Officials from our embassy in Rabat also travel to Western Sahara on a regular basis.

The EU Delegation in Rabat conducts enhanced dialogue with human rights defenders from Morocco and Western Sahara, in which British officials are closely involved. There is a regular EU-Morocco human rights dialogue and we will continue to discuss human rights with Morocco bilaterally and with EU partners.

Yemen: Politics and Government

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Yemen. [58746]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The situation in Yemen is extremely uncertain following the attack on President Saleh on 3 June, and he is currently receiving medical treatment in Saudi Arabia. Saleh's departure brought an end to 10 days of heavy fighting.

We welcome the announcement of the transfer of authority to the Vice President and urge him to take advantage of this relative calm, working closely with all sides, to implement the Gulf Co-operation Council Agreement and to begin political transition now.

We urge all sides to continue showing restraint and seek dialogue as the way forward. We support the efforts of the GCC to get all Yemeni sides to agree to a transitional process. We hope now that, with Saleh in Riyadh there will be a real chance for transition to happen.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Pay

John Mann: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the annual salary cost is of staff in his private office; and what the cost was of salaries in the Deputy Prime Minister's Office in each year from 2007-08 to 2009-10. [7889]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The total staffing cost for my office in 2010-11 was £1,028,487.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

North East Local Economic Partnership

21. **Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for *Business, Innovation and Skills what* assessment he has made of progress in establishing the north-east local economic partnership; and if he will make a statement. [57799]

Mr Prisk: The north-east local enterprise partnership was asked to form its board in January. Paul Walker, former CEO of Sage plc, has been appointed as interim chair and is overseeing the recruitment of the formal board. It is anticipated that this will be in place shortly.

ESOL

22. **Heidi Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish the equality impact assessment undertaken on his Department's co-financing proposals for courses in English for speakers of other languages. [57800]

Mr Hayes: I am determined to reform English for speakers of other languages to make it fairer for people such as those in the hon. Lady's constituency, ensuring improved outcomes and better value for money. That is why I chose, as I was able, to inform the House in a debate on 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 209-12WH, that the Department expects to publish an equality impact assessment before the summer recess.

Regional Growth Fund

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on the second round of allocations from the regional growth fund; and if he will make a statement. [57796]

Mr Prisk: The second round of the regional growth fund is worth just under £1 billion and bids must be received before 1 July 2011. Applicants are able to attend a series of roadshows, chaired by Lord Heseltine and Sir Ian Wrigglesworth, which offer advice and support to prospective bidders. These roadshows have been heavily subscribed.

One North East

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the opportunity costs of the sale on the open market of the assets held by One North East; and if he will make a statement. [57798]

Mr Prisk: There is no opportunity cost. Where regional development agency assets are being sold it is either because their regeneration is complete, or because the purchaser is well-placed to continue their development.

Companies: Pay

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance his Department issues on the governance of remuneration committees of limited companies. [58457]

Mr Davey: UK quoted companies are required under company law to disclose the members of their remuneration committees and the advisers to those committees.

The Financial Reporting Council's UK Corporate Governance Code includes principles and provisions on the role and membership of the remuneration committee. Annex A to the code gives guidance about the design of performance-related remuneration for executive directors.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make the carrying out of an impact analysis a pre-condition for all projects supported by the Export Credits Guarantee Department. [58478]

Mr Davey: ECGD undertakes impact analysis for projects that fall within the ambit of the OECD "Revised Council Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits" and the OECD "Principles and Guidelines to Promote Sustainable Lending Practices in the Provision of Official Export Credits to Low Income Countries".

Export Credits Guarantee Department: Developing Countries

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the debt owed by developing countries to the Export Credits Guarantee Department. [58481]

Mr Davey: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish (Andrew Gwynne) on 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 645W.

Export Credits Guarantee Department: Human Rights

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has any plans to adopt mandatory standards on human rights as part of the remit of the Export Credits Guarantee Department. [58479]

Mr Davey: The Export Credits Guarantees Department (ECGD) considers the human rights impacts of the projects that fall within the ambit of the OECD 'Revised Council Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits', which require projects to be benchmarked against international standards, usually those of the World Bank Group. The standards cover labour and working conditions, community health and safety, land acquisition and involuntary resettlement, indigenous peoples, etc.

Export Credits Guarantee Department: Technology

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has any plans to include green technology products in the remit of the Export Credits Guarantee Department. [58480]

Mr Davey: The Export Credits Guarantee Department is already able to support exports of green technology products.

Export Credits Guarantees Department: Arms Trade

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will prohibit support for *(a)* arms and *(b)* fossil fuels from the Export Credits Guarantee Department. [58477]

Mr Davey: No. A blanket ban that would exclude whole classes of exports from being able to access support from the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) would be unlawful under ECGD's Act. ECGD considers defence and fossil fuel related exports in accordance with its risk standards and its international obligations (e.g. those relating to anti-bribery and corruption and environmental, social and human rights standards) to determine whether or not it can provide support for individual transactions.

Global Positioning System: Earthquakes

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with *(a)* the US administration and *(b)* his EU counterparts on the effects of recent earthquakes on the calibration of global positioning systems; and if he will make a statement. [58025]

Mr Willetts: I have not had any discussions with either the US administration or EU counterparts on the effects of recent earthquakes on the calibration of global positioning systems.

The recent earthquake in Japan has had a small effect on the shape of the Earth which has required their mapping agencies to undertake a readjustment of their geodetic network. This has already taken place. No changes are required to satellite navigation systems as the effect was insignificant compared with annual variations in the Earth's shape.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the legal status is of a local enterprise partnership. [58459]

Mr Prisk: As set out in the Local Growth White Paper the Government do not intend to define local enterprise partnerships in legislation. The constitution and legal status of each partnership will be a matter for the partners, informed by the activities that they wish to pursue.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Public Appointments

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance his Department provides to local enterprise partnerships on the appointment of board members. [58455]

Mr Prisk: The guidance this Department provides to local enterprise partnerships on the appointment of board members is set out on our website at the following address:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/leps/board-membership

Nuclear Engineering: Higher Education

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* vacancies on university courses and *(b)* graduates in nuclear engineering in each of the next five years. [57282]

Mr Willetts: This information is not available; we do not plan for the number of students at a course, subject or institutional level. The actual number of places on nuclear engineering courses will depend on the decisions of individual universities. We expect the total number of places on all courses in 2011/12 to be broadly similar to 2010/11.

Space Technology

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to promote economic growth in the space sector. [57788]

Mr Willetts: The space sector is an important and dynamic part of our economy, growing at 8% a year. The Government are backing it with £850 million over four years. We also announced more measures for the space industry in the Budget, including removing regulatory barriers and £10 million to start the national space technology strategy programme and to accelerate the development of the International Space Innovation Centre at Harwell. We have also implemented the creation of the new UK Space Agency, which will deliver economic growth by supporting industry to increase the UK's high value space activities.

CABINET OFFICE

Lung Cancer

Mr Baron: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the incidence rate for lung cancer among *(a)* men and *(b)* women (i) in each primary care trust, (ii) in each cancer network and (iii) in England was in the last five years for which figures are available; [57950]

(2) what the incidence rate for lung cancer in people aged *(a)* 49 years and under, *(b)* 50 to 59 years, *(c)* 60 to 69 years, *(d)* 70 to 79 years and *(e)* 80 years and over (i) in each primary care trust, (ii) in each cancer network and (iii) in England was in the last five years for which figures are available. [57951]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking:

1. What the incidence rate for lung cancer among (a) men and (b) women (i) in each primary care trust, (ii) in each cancer network and (iii) in England was in the last five years for which figures are available. [57950]

2. What the incidence rate for lung cancer in people aged (a) 49 years and under, (b) 50 to 59 years, (c) 60 to 69 years, (d) 70 to 79 years and (e) 80 years and over (i) in each primary care trust, (ii) in each cancer network and (iii) in England was in the last five years for which figures are available. [57951]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2008.

Table 1(i) provides age standardised incidence rate for lung cancer for (a) men and (b) women in each primary care organisation in England, for each year from 2004 to 2008.

Table 1(ii) provides age standardised incidence rate for lung cancer for (a) men and (b) women in each cancer network in England, for each year from 2004 to 2008.

Table 1(iii) provides age standardised incidence rate for lung cancer for (a) men and (b) women in England, for each year from 2004 to 2008.

Table 2(i) provides age standardised incidence rate for lung cancer, for persons aged (a) 49 years and under, (b) 50 to 59 years, (c) 60 to 69 years, (d) 70 to 79 years and (e) 80 years and over in each primary care organisation in England, for the years 2004 to 2008 combined.

Table 2(ii) provides age standardised incidence rate for lung cancer, for persons aged (a) 49 years and under, (b) 50 to 59 years, (c) 60 to 69 years, (d) 70 to 79 years and (e) 80 years and over in each cancer network in England, for the years 2004 to 2008 combined.

Table 2(iii) provides age standardised incidence rate for lung cancer, for persons aged (a) 49 years and under, (b) 50 to 59 years, (c) 60 to 69 years, (d) 70 to 79 years and (e) 80 years and over in England, for the years 2004 to 2008 combined.

It is ONS policy not to calculate age-standardised rates where there are less than 10 events in a group, as standardised rates based on small numbers of events are susceptible to inaccurate interpretation. Therefore, age standardised rates have been provided for years 2004 to 2008 combined in response to Question 2 and rates for two primary care organisations in Table 2(i) have not been calculated.

Copies of all tables have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The latest published figures on the incidence of cancer in England are available on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/mb1-39/mb1-no39-2008.pdf

Pensions: Prison Service

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will consider the merits of classing the Prison Service as a uniformed service for the purposes of public sector pensions. [58752]

Mr Maude: The Government have accepted the recommendations of Lord Hutton's Independent Public Service Pensions Commission (IPSPC) as a basis for consultation with public service workers, unions and others. We are currently discussing the IPSPC's recommendations with the main public service unions, including the Prison Officers' Association, and we expect to make an announcement in the autumn.

HEALTH

Care Quality Commission

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many statutory notifications the Care Quality Commission received in each category of notification in the year to *(a)* 1 April and *(b)* 1 April 2011; and how many such notifications its predecessor organisations received in year since 1 April 2005. [58092]

Mr Simon Burns: The following information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Notifications under:	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Health and Social Care Act 2008	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	[1]110,088
Care Standards Act 2000—adult social Care	242,701	240,997	229,372	243,429	253,103	[2]132,682
Care Standards Act 2000—independent healthcare	[3]—	[3]—	19,356	23,387	27,462	[2]14,891

[1] National health service providers became registered under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 from 1 April 2010. Private and voluntary health care and adult social care providers became registered under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 from 1 October 2010.

[2] Prior to 1 October 2010, private and voluntary health care and adult social care providers were registered under the Care Standards Act 2000.

[3] The CQC is currently unable to provide data on notifications prior to 1 April 2007 in relation to independent health care providers.

A breakdown of notifications by category has been placed in the Library.

Art Therapy

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many art therapists are engaged to work in hospitals in *(a)* East Midlands, *(b)* South Yorkshire and *(c)* England. [58377]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of Hospital and Community Health Service qualified art, music and drama therapists employed in the East Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber, and England as at 30 September 2010 are provided in the following table. The information is taken from the 2010 Non-Medical Workforce Census published by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

NHS Hospital and Community Health Services: qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff—England as at September 2010

Headcount

	England	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*
All qualified art/music/drama therapy staff	691	61	25
Consultant Therapist	2	—	—
Manager	32	—	2
Therapist	646	60	23
Instructor/teacher	14	1	—

Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care 2010 Non-Medical Workforce Census

Cancer: Health Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that Public Health England and the NHS work together to promote early diagnosis of *(a)* bowel cancer and *(b)* other cancers following the implementation of his planned NHS reforms. [57569]

Paul Burstow: Early diagnosis of bowel and other cancers requires strong links between the public health system and the national health service. We recently consulted on the funding and commissioning routes for public health services, and on an Outcomes Framework for Public Health, and will be publishing our response in due course.

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to ensure that expertise in cancer commissioning developed by cancer networks is retained in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; [58583]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of cancer networks. [58584]

Paul Burstow: We know that cancer networks have had a crucial role in promoting excellence and improving outcomes for cancer patients. They have brought together clinical expertise to carry out complex surgery, worked to implement the 'improving outcomes' guidance produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, driven up service quality through peer review and undertaken cancer awareness initiatives.

We have said that cancer networks will now receive funding in 2012-13 and that, subject to legislation, the NHS Commissioning Board will support strengthened cancer networks in the future. The National Cancer Director, Professor Sir Mike Richards, has been asked to begin work to strengthen the cancer networks and to engage them to understand how best to improve outcomes for patients.

Departmental Contracts

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on each contract with a firm of management consultants since May 2010. [58487]

Mr Simon Burns: This information for the whole of financial year 2010-11 (i.e. 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011) is contained in the document entitled "Core Department of Health external consultancy expenditure for financial year 2010-11", which has been placed in the Library.

The table placed in the Library shows the total expenditure for 2010-11 as £9.8 million. The like-for-like figure for 2009-10 is £108 million. This is expenditure for "Core Department of Health" contracts and excludes similar expenditure by Connecting for Health (CfH). The CfH figures for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are £6.3 million and £5 million respectively.

The Department's procurement database system is a live system with data being added in real time. It is not therefore possible to provide the information from 1 May 2010 onwards, i.e. excluding the month of April 2010; monthly totals and information can be provided only from July 2010 onwards.

Enforcement Actions

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many enforcement actions have been taken against *(a)* NHS trusts, *(b)* independent healthcare providers and *(c)* adult social care providers in each of the last three years; and at what level such actions were taken. [58093]

Mr Simon Burns: The following information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The following table shows detailed enforcement activity taken[1, 2].

Action taken against:	*2008-09*[3]	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
NHS Trusts	0	5	13
Independent healthcare providers	3	37	19
Adult social care providers	43	480	221

[1] These data refer to centrally held information on the CQC's statutory enforcement powers. It should be noted that the regulations under which statutory enforcement was carried out by the CQC and its predecessor bodies has changed. The national health service came under the new regulatory regime under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 on 1 April 2010; adult social care and independent healthcare came under the new regime on 1 October 2010.

[2] The number of actions outlined in the table does not equate to the number of providers, as multiple actions may have been taken against a single provider.

[3] Action taken by the predecessors to the CQC under the Care Standards Act 2000 regulations.

The following table shows detailed enforcement activity.

Enforcement action taken by the CQC and its predecessors between April 2008 and March 2011[1, 2]

	Enforcement action taken against adult social care providers		
Type of enforcement activity	*2008-09*[1]	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Statutory Requirement Notice	12	373	119
Notice of Proposal to cancel registration (provider and manager)	9	80	31
Notice of Proposal to vary condition	1	19	6
Notice of Proposal to impose condition	—	—	3
Urgent Application to Cancel Registration	7	1	—
Urgent Application to Vary Conditions	2	—	—
Prosecutions completed	12	5	2
Simple Caution	—	2	3
Warning Notice	—	—	57

Enforcement action taken by the CQC and its predecessors between April 2008 and March 2011[1, 2]

Enforcement action taken against adult social care providers

Type of enforcement activity	*2008-09*[1]	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Total	43	480	221

Enforcement action taken against independent healthcare providers

Type of enforcement activity	*2008-09*[1]	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Statutory Requirement Notice	2	16	3
Notice of Proposal to cancel registration (provider and manager)	—	14	12
Notice of Proposal to vary condition	—	—	1
Notice of Proposal to impose condition	—	—	0
Urgent Application to Cancel Registration	—	—	0
Urgent Application to Vary Conditions	—	—	2
Prosecutions completed	1	7	1
Simple Caution	—	—	—
Warning Notice	—	—	—
Total	3	37	19

Enforcement action taken against NHS providers

Type of enforcement activity	*2008-09*[1]	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Statutory Requirement Notice	—	—	1
Notice of Proposal to cancel registration (provider and manager)	—	—	—
Notice of Proposal to vary condition	—	—	1
Notice of Proposal to impose condition	—	—	—
Urgent Application to Cancel Registration	—	—	—
Urgent Application to Vary Conditions	—	—	—
Prosecutions completed	—	—	—
Simple Caution	—	—	—
Warning Notice	—	5	11
Total	—	5	13

[1] These data refer to centrally held information on the CQCs statutory enforcement powers. It should be noted that the regulations under which statutory enforcement was carried out by the CQC and its predecessor bodies has changed. The NHS came under the new regulatory regime under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 on 1 April 2010; adult social care and independent healthcare came under the new regime on 1 October 2010.

[2] The number of actions outlined in the table does not equate to the number of providers, as multiple actions may have been taken against a single provider.

General Practitioners: Telephone Services

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has any plans to take steps in relation to the use by/of GP surgeries using 084 telephone numbers after April 2011. [58349]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not plan to take steps in relation to general practitioner surgeries using 084 numbers. The Department issued guidance and Directions to national health service bodies in December 2009 on the cost of telephone calls, which prohibit the use of telephone numbers which charge the patient more than the equivalent cost of calling a geographical number to contact the NHS. It is currently the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure that local practices are compliant with the Directions and guidance.

NHS Direct: Sign Language

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are in place for British Sign Language users to contact NHS Direct. [58593]

Mr Simon Burns: NHS Direct's core 0845 46 47 service is available through NHS Direct's textphone service, by dialling 0845 606 4647, for patients who are hearing impaired. NHS Direct is also available through the Text Relay service, operated by BT.

NHS: Complementary Medicine

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the continued provision of homeopathy through NHS homeopathic hospitals; how many NHS homeopathic hospitals provide homeopathic treatments and other forms of complementary medicine to NHS patients; and if he will make a statement. [59002]

Anne Milton: It is the responsibility of local national health service organisations to make decisions on the commissioning and funding of such treatments, taking account of issues to do with safety, clinical and cost effectiveness and the availability of suitably qualified/regulated practitioners.

The Department is aware of three hospitals in England, and one in Scotland, that specifically provide homeopathic services, but it does not maintain central records of homeopathic or other complementary/alternative treatments provided by other NHS hospitals, though some data on homeopathic prescriptions are collected.

NHS: Reorganisation

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with Professor Steve Field of the NHS Future Forum during his Department's listening exercise on the future of the NHS. [58629]

Mr Simon Burns: Professor Steve Field met with the Secretary of State on 23 May 2011, when they had a general discussion about the listening exercise.

Professor Field and the Secretary of State attended listening events together on five occasions over the last eight weeks; but these events were for listening to others, rather than for discussion between themselves.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent meetings officials in his Department have had with Professor Steve Field. [58630]

Mr Simon Burns: Professor Steve Field and other members of the NHS Future Forum have met with various policy officials from the Department over the last eight weeks to understand the detailed wording of the Health and Social Care Bill and its intentions.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has requested Professor Steve Field to report to him at the conclusion of the listening exercise on the future of the NHS. [58631]

Mr Simon Burns: When the NHS Future Forum was established as part of the NHS Listening Exercise on 13 April 2011, the Government made clear that the forum were to produce a report for the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health. The NHS Future Forum's report will be made public.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse has been of sums paid to *(a)* Professor Steve Field and *(b)* his colleagues for reimbursement of expenses incurred during the listening exercise on the future of the NHS; and whether sums are to be met from his Department's budget. [58632]

Mr Simon Burns: To date (up until 7 June 2011), the expenses invoiced by Professor Steve Field and the 44 other members of the NHS Future Forum, which have been incurred during the eight-week period of the NHS Listening Exercise, are:

(a) Professor Steve Field: £2,098.74;

(b) Other NHS Future Forum members: £4,201.04.

The sums have been met from the Department's allocated budget.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support Professor Steve Field has received from his Department during the listening exercise on the future of the NHS; and what the cost to the public purse of such support has been. [58633]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Future Forum, chaired by Professor Steve Field, has received secretariat support from the Department, including:

diary management;

arranging listening events and visits;

setting up NHS Future Forum meetings;

updating the Modernisation website with information about the forum;

providing facts and evidence to support the forum in developing their reports; and

facilitating access to the Department's policy officials as requested.

This support has been absorbed within existing departmental staffing levels and has added no additional cost to the public purse.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark of 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 3, on NHS reform, where each of the centrally organised events will be held; on what dates each such event will take place; and how many of those events he plans to attend. [58700]

Mr Simon Burns: As part of the listening exercise, which ended on 31 May 2011, the ministerial team, along with members of the NHS Future Forum, have visited every region in the country attending around 200 listening events, to listen to views of the public, staff and patients. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health attended 35 of these events. The vast majority of these events were not organised centrally. To minimise disruption to practising clinicians and to other stakeholders, the Government and NHS Future Forum were invited by a range of organisations to use a number of prescheduled meeting times. These included meetings and events with national stakeholders, frontline NHS staff and patients. Where necessary, the proposed agendas for these meetings were altered to reflect the listening exercise to ensure there was opportunity for explicit discussion around the key themes.

Nutrition

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research on the potential links between increasing salt consumption and improving health his Department has evaluated. [58512]

Anne Milton: The evidence linking salt consumption and health was evaluated by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) in 2003. This concluded that the evidence that high salt intakes led to high blood pressure had strengthened since the issue was last considered in 1994. SACN also stated that, as high blood pressure was a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease, reducing average population salt intake to 6 grams (and less for children) would proportionally lower population average blood pressure and confer significant public health benefits.

Officials continue to review published studies and, since 2003, there has been no new evidence that would alter the scientific consensus reported by SACN.

Out-patients: Attendance

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce non-attendance rates for hospital appointments. [58464]

Mr Simon Burns: Primary care trusts are responsible for agreeing local access policies, which set out how to prevent and deal with DNAs (did not attend) for local populations.

The percentage of missed appointments as a proportion of hospital activity remains broadly stable.

National health service organisations respond to the problem of DNAs in a number of ways, such as sending reminder letters, telephone reminders and/or automated texts to mobile phones.

The NHS Constitution emphasises patients' responsibilities including making it clear that "you should keep appointments, or cancel within reasonable time. Receiving treatment within the maximums may be compromised if you do".

Pharmacy

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria are used in determining whether to allow new commercial registered pharmacy premises to open; and if he will make a statement. [58753]

Mr Simon Burns: In England, any person can open a pharmacy if they meet the requirements of the Medicines Act 1968. However, no pharmacy or appliance contractor can be included on a primary care trust's pharmaceutical list to provide NHS pharmaceutical services unless granting the application is "necessary or expedient" to secure the adequate provision of pharmaceutical services in the primary care trust's area. This is known as the "control of entry" test and the requirements are set out in the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services Regulations) 2005. There are currently four exemptions to that test (provided certain criteria are met).

Prescriptions: Databases

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS Information Centre have received on proposals to publish prescribing data at practice level; and if he will make a statement; [58494]

(2) with reference to paragraph 2.200 of The Plan for Growth of March 2011, what estimate his Department has made of the potential number of patient records the confidentiality of which would be at risk from the publication of prescribing data at practice level; and what factors it has taken into consideration in evaluating this risk; [58498]

(3) with reference to paragraph 2.200 of The Plan for Growth of March 2011, with which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals the NHS Information Centre will consult as part of its evaluation and impact assessment of the publication of prescribing data at practice level; whether it plans to undertake a public consultation on its proposals for publication; whether his Department will have regard to the outcome of the NHS Information Centre's consultation on the wider release of primary care prescribing data; and if he will make a statement. [58499]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government are looking to publish prescribing data at practice level subject to an evaluation and impact assessment by the NHS Information Centre. The Information Centre has begun this process; this is a high level review of the implications of publishing practice-level prescribing data, reflecting the fact that there are different interests involved. It is important therefore that the impact assessment is seen to be objective.

In line with the broader strategic approach to information, the results of the Information Centre's impact assessment will be a vital first step to ensure that aggregated data can be made available without the risk of sensitive, personal or patient-identifiable information being made public. The Department will consider how best to take forward this proposal in due course, in the light of the findings of the Information Centre's impact assessment.

The Information Centre is drawing on information from a range of sources, reflecting the different perspectives including policy and research, pharmaceutical professionals and industry. The process will be especially mindful that the interests associated with transparency and economic growth, with patient choice, and with confidentiality of patient and professional must be considered in the final decision, and the impact assessment will help inform that decision.

The NHS Information Centre is not consulting on the review, and so has not sought formal representations. While, apart from a letter to the Prime Minister, from the hon. Member himself, the Department is not aware of any formal representations specifically on this issue, the Department will consider whether there is such a need to consult, based on the decision that it reaches about what will be made available, and in what format.

We are clear that any decisions about publishing these data must not compromise patient confidentiality.

School Milk

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to increase the uptake of free milk amongst primary school children. [57537]

Anne Milton: The Nursery Milk Scheme reimburses child care providers the cost of a third of a pint of milk for children under five years old who attend for two or more hours a day. This includes some four-year-olds in reception classes at primary schools. The Nursery Milk Scheme has been running for many years and we believe that awareness of the scheme is high, with over 50,000 child care providers currently registered with the Nursery Milk Reimbursement Unit. The Nursery Milk Scheme is the only milk scheme provided by the Department.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs runs the EU school milk scheme and a national top-up subsidy, which aims to encourage more consumption by primary school children.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Overseas Aid

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Leader of the House whether he has established a timetable for the passage of the proposed legislation to enshrine in law the commitment to spend 0.7% of gross national income on official development assistance from 2013. [57579]

Sir George Young: The coalition Government have set out how we will meet our commitment to spend 0.7% of national income as overseas aid from 2013.

As the Prime Minister said to the Liaison Committee, the Government will bring forward legislation on this issue during this Parliament.

Written Questions

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Leader of the House what information he holds on the proportion of questions for written answer on a named day which have received a substantive answer *(a)* on the day named, *(b)* (i) two, (ii) three, (iv) four, (v) five and (vi) six days later than the day named and *(c)* more than (A) one, (B) two, (C) three and (D) four weeks later than the day named in the present session of Parliament. [58495]

Sir George Young: The information requested is a matter for individual Departments. In the present Session my office has substantively answered all 29 named day written parliamentary questions on the day named.

In response to the Procedure Committee's Second Report of 2010-12, the Government accepted the committee's recommendation to provide the committee with sessional statistics on written parliamentary question performance for the current Session within three months of the end of this Session. Further details, including statistics for the 2009-10 Session, are available in my February 2011 submission to the Procedure Committee, numbered P85, which is available on the publications page of the Committee's website.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Infrastructure Levy

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what limits he plans to put in place on the level of charges local authorities can make on planning applications for the community infrastructure levy. [57966]

Robert Neill: Section 211 of the Planning Act 2008, Regulation 14 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 and the Community Infrastructure Levy Guidance: Charge setting and charging schedule procedures (March, 2010) set out the framework within which charging authorities can set local charges. In doing so, authorities must consider the potential impact that their proposed charges will have on the economic viability of development across their area and ensure that their charges are informed by and consistent with the evidence. Before proposed charges can be approved, they are tested at a public examination held by an independent examiner. The examiner must be satisfied that the proposed charges comply with the legislation and the authority has had regard to the guidance.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the maximum contribution is a local authority can make towards flood prevention measures without activating the trigger for a referendum under the community infrastructure levy proposed in the Localism Bill. [57967]

Robert Neill: There are no provisions under the Community Infrastructure Levy, or the changes to it in the Localism Bill, for the holding of a referendum.

Departmental Official Cars

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) he and (ii) each other Minister in his Department has travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010. [50187]

Robert Neill: All ministerial travel is in accordance with the arrangements for official travel as set out in the Ministerial Code, which states that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

In a typical week, members of the ministerial team do make use of the ministerial car service to travel in an official capacity.

The incoming Government agreed to minimise the use of allocated Government Car and Dispatch Agency cars with drivers—that is, a full-time driver available to each Minister. This change will make savings in comparison to spending on Government cars under the previous Administration. The Department now retains one allocated car. The Department's five other allocated cars have been given up and Ministers now use a pool car service on demand provided by the Government Car and Dispatch Agency.

Detailed information on journeys is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many meals at venues outside the Department were provided from the public purse for *(a)* the right hon. Member for Southampton, Itchen and his guests, *(b)* the right hon. Member for Don Valley and her guests and *(c)* the right hon. Member for Wentworth and his guests and at what cost, during the time each was a Minister in his Department; [43862]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 910W, on departmental official hospitality, and with reference to paragraph 74 of the Third Report of the Procedure Committee, Session 2008-09, on Written Parliamentary Questions, HC 952, if he will make it his

policy to disclose in answers to parliamentary questions the information on expenditure by his Department on ministerial meals and restaurants between 2008 and 2010 that would have been disclosed had a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for this information been submitted to his Department. [50148]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* That is already the policy of this Department.

Further to my answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 910W, based on an analysis of data held on Government Procurement Cards, expenditure in restaurants involving Ministers totalled some £2,500 in the financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10. A more detailed breakdown of expenditure on individual meals, together with details of venues and guests, would require the checking of transactions against individual invoices and ministerial diaries and could thus be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In the interests of transparency, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bristol North West (Charlotte Leslie) on 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 33-34W, which provides a full list of card transactions for the Department in the financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Departmental Official Visits

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the date was of each official visit to each local authority area undertaken by the right hon. Member for Don Valley during the period when she was a Minister in his Department. [43863]

Robert Neill: In line with established convention, present Ministers are not accountable to Parliament for events which took place under a previous Administration. This is outlined in the Directory of Civil Service Guidance (volume II, page 11). Copies of the guidance are available in the Library of the House.

Electricity

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities will have powers to introduce local standards for electrical safety which are more stringent than national standards after enactment of his proposals in the Localism Bill. [58504]

Andrew Stunell: The proposals in the Localism Bill introduce no new powers for local authorities to impose local standards for electrical safety.

Electrical safety in workplaces is covered by the Electricity at Work Regulations and in dwellings by Part P of the Building Regulations.

Local authorities are already able to specify whatever standards they consider appropriate when procuring new buildings or other electrical work.

Enterprise Zones: North East

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the economy of the North East of the creation of enterprise zones. [57882]

Robert Neill: Local Enterprise Partnerships are currently developing detailed proposals for enterprise zones. The Government will assess these proposals based on their potential for growth, value for money, and a robust implementation plan.

Enterprise Zones: Per Capita Costs

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of each job created in an enterprise zone. [57995]

Robert Neill: Local Enterprise Partnerships are currently developing detailed proposals for enterprise zones. The Government will assess these proposals based on their potential for growth, value for money, and a robust implementation plan.

Fire Services: Private Sector

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the leasing of fire appliances from private sector companies. [57307]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 7 June 2011]:* Sharing back office functions and improving procurement are key ways that fire and rescue authorities can deliver sensible savings, while protecting the quality and breadth of frontline services offered to their communities.

While each fire and rescue authority is responsible for their own policy on procurement, they should constantly search for the best value for money in delivering their services. Outsourcing the provision of capital equipment can be one such way, provided the precise terms and conditions of the contract represent value for money in the long term.

I know that the hon. Member has an ongoing interest in the contract between London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) and AssetCo.

As you will expect, we have been in close contact with LFEPA over the financial situation regarding AssetCo. LFEPA have given us their assurance that appropriate arrangements are in place to meet their statutory duties, and ensure a continued service to the people of London, irrespective of AssetCo's particular financial circumstances.

Notwithstanding, I would note that these outsourcing arrangements have previously been beneficial for Londoners by strengthening resilience and business continuity. Indeed, the level of investment provided by the contractor as part of the private finance initiative contract has meant that the current fleet and equipment is more modern and effective than could have been achieved by LFEPA if they had procured directly themselves. During the industrial action last year, AssetCo deployed 27 fully crewed fire appliances, from 27 strategic locations across the London Fire Brigade area.

Gifts and Endowments

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what gifts valued below £140 *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers in his Department received in 2009-10. [43782]

Robert Neill: The receipt of gifts by Ministers is handled in accordance with the provisions of the Ministerial Code. The reporting and recording of gifts offered to or received by officials is a requirement of the Department for Communities and Local Government Staff Handbook and the Civil Service Management Code.

The gifts valued below £140 recorded in central departmental records as received by DCLG officials and Ministers in the 2009-10 financial year were:

Officials

Ballpoint pen
Board game
Books
Business card holder
Ceramic saucer
Chocolates
Decanter
DVD
Fountain pen
Ginseng tea
Glass ornament
Music CDs
Panettone
Paperweight
Three rucksacks, three torches, three USB sticks and books
Shopping bags
Silver coin
Silver Sikh ring and pin
Stationery
Wine and spirits
Wine glasses

Ministers

Book
Calendar
Decorative plaques
Fine bone china plate
Food hamper
Framed photograph
Lacquerware box
Mug
Photo frame
Stationery
Wine and spirits
Wooden plate.

Homelessness

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to increase local accountability in respect of community empowerment and the inclusion of *(a)* the homeless community and *(b)* other groups in the allocation of provision of services. [57720]

Andrew Stunell: Under legislation which is already in place, councils are subject to legal duties to provide services for certain groups, and to consult these groups about services provided. For example, local authorities have various duties under the homelessness legislation, including the requirement to secure suitable accommodation for households who are eligible for assistance, homeless through no fault of their own and in "priority need".

A council is under a legal duty to consult representatives of those who use or are likely to use its services on how it achieves continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions (including service delivery). This is set out in the Local Government Act 1999, section 3(2). The Government encourage the involvement of homeless people in service planning and design.

My Department is currently consulting on reforms to Best Value guidance to ensure that councils give greater support to local voluntary and community groups, as outlined in my Department's press notice of 13 April 2011.

Housing: Durham

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the level of single occupancy residency is in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* North West Durham constituency. [59071]

Andrew Stunell: An estimated 28% of households in England and 30% of households in the north-east were single person households in 2009-10. These estimates are based on data from the English Housing Survey. Estimates of the proportion of single person households at constituency level are not possible using survey data.

Based on 2001 census data, the proportion of single person households in England in 2001 was 30%; the proportion in the north-east was 31%; and the proportion in the North West Durham constituency was 30%.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which business organisations he consulted on the decision to establish a representative body for local enterprise partnerships. [58095]

Robert Neill: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 1034W, to the hon. Member for Torbay (Mr Sanders).

The British Chambers of Commerce is committed to working closely with other business organisations to ensure that the network is a success. We hope other business organisations will engage constructively in this work going forward.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has considered the merits of establishing a model constitution for local enterprise partnerships to include representation from all sizes of business. [58096]

Robert Neill: Getting the right membership for each local enterprise partnership's board is key to securing effective business engagement and ensuring a strong focus on the needs of local economies. As we set out in the Local Growth White Paper last October, we would normally expect to see business representatives form half the board with a prominent business leader in the chair.

While we are not being prescriptive as to who should sit on partnership boards, we would expect to see business members with first hand knowledge and experience of the local businesses environment, through a strong track record of local business leadership at a senior level. We would also want to see board members drawn from a breadth of experience, from small enterprises through to large businesses, representing the key sectors in their local area.

Local Government Association

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many occasions the right hon. Member for Don Valley met representatives of the Local Government Association during the periods she was a Minister in his Department. [43860]

Robert Neill: In this instance, the Department no longer holds the information requested.

Local Government Finance

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment he has made of the potential effect on formula grant of proposals for business rate retention; [58142]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect any change to the formula grant resulting from proposed changes to business rate retention will have on the most deprived communities in England; [58160]

(3) what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the proposed retention of business rates on local authorities in whose areas business rate contributions have increased at a rate below the national average. [58161]

Robert Neill: The Local Government Resource Review is considering options to allow local authorities to keep at least a proportion of their business rates which currently form part of the Formula Grant. The terms of reference of the review make clear that the review will consider how to fund those authorities where locally raised funding would be insufficient to meet budget requirements, recognising that some authorities are currently more dependent on central government funding than others. The review will publish its proposals in July for consultation.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 30 March and 12 May 2011 on regional spatial strategies and his Department's Circular 01/2006. [58509]

Robert Neill: A reply to the letter of 30 March was sent on 21 April and the 12 May letter was replied to on 8 June.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received on the decision to end support for empty property rates. [57519]

Robert Neill: Since the written ministerial statement of 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 61-62W, Ministers at this Department have received 83 letters on empty property rates measures and have met two MPs with their constituents to discuss empty property rates.

As the statement set out, undoing the last Government's increase in empty property taxation was unaffordable given the need to tackle the deficit, but we are keeping the matter under review.

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect on small businesses of empty property business rates. [58146]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 178W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Newark (Patrick Mercer).

Parliamentary Questions: Government Responses

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to answer question 35814, tabled on 19 January 2011 for answer on 21 January 2011, on local government finance settlement. [54060]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 4 May 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 687-88W.

Planning Permission

Nigel Adams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the merits of introducing a compensation directive in the event of local authorities choosing to exercise powers under Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 for the purposes of providing certainty and protection from unreasonable compensatory demands from developers. [57849]

Robert Neill: The Government are considering what amendments may be required to the Town and Country Planning (Compensation) (England) Regulations, so that if an article 4 direction is used to withdraw permitted development rights for the demolition of non-residential premises, compensation may only be claimed if an application for planning permission is submitted within 12 months of the direction being made. It would also mean that if 12 months' notice were given of such an article 4 direction being made, there would be no ability to claim compensation.

Nigel Adams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to ensure that landowners who allow their property to be used for local amenities are able to appeal against any proposal to add their property to the Heritage Assets list under the powers provided by Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995. [57850]

Robert Neill: I believe my hon. Friend is referring to the Assets of Community Value provisions within the Localism Bill. The Bill requires the relevant local authority to list any land or buildings which are nominated as being of community value, if they meet the definition of an Asset of Community Value. This definition will be set out in regulations, following careful consideration of the responses that we have received to the public consultation that closed on 3 May. The Bill also gives landowners the right to an internal review of a decision to list an asset, and provides for the possibility of a further independent appeal hearing against that decision. The Government will be setting out in detail the provision they intend to make in due course.

George Hollingbery: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications in each development category were required to be referred to the Secretary of State under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009 in each year since its entry into force; and how many such applications so referred the Secretary of State also called in for determination in each such year. [57989]

Robert Neill: It is for local authorities to determine whether an application they receive falls within the requirements of the Direction and therefore whether or not it should be referred to the Secretary of State.

Since April 2009, when the Direction came into force, the Secretary of State has received 476 referrals in total, of which seven were called-in. The numbers of specific development types referred and called-in each year are as follows:

	2009		*2010*		*2011 (to date)*	
	Total	*Call in*	*Total*	*Call in*	*Total*	*Call in*
Green Belt	42	0	152	2	47	2
Playing Field	10	0	51	0	19	0
Flood Risk Area	1	1	6	1	0	0
Outside Town Centre	21	0	95	1	30	0
World Heritage Site	0	0	1	0	1	0
Total	74	1	305	4	97	2

Planning Permission: Appeals

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning appeals in each category the Planning Inspectorate considered in each of the last five years; and how many and what proportion of such appeals were *(a)* upheld and *(b)* dismissed. [57581]

Robert Neill: The total number of planning appeals in each category (i.e. type of development) considered in each of the last five years and the proportion that were upheld and dismissed is shown in the yearly following tables.

2006

Category	*Total decisions*	*Upheld*		*Dismissed*	
		Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Major dwellings (10 or more)	1,381	453	33	928	67
Major offices	10	6	64	4	36
Major manufacturers/stores/warehouses	18	7	39	11	61
Major retail	31	12	39	19	61
Mineral workings	3	3	100	0	0
Other major development	224	104	46	120	54
Minor dwellings (less than 10)	6,906	1,898	27	5,008	73
Minor offices	103	33	32	70	68
Minor manufacturers/stores/warehouses	123	42	34	81	66
Minor retail	213	81	38	132	62
Other minor development	3,183	1,320	41	1,863	59
Householder development	5,756	1,974	34	3,782	66
Change of use	1,729	648	37	1,081	63

2007

Category	*Total decisions*	*Upheld*		*Dismissed*	
		Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Major dwellings (10 or more)	1,284	488	38	796	62
Major offices	14	8	57	6	43
Major manufacturers/stores/warehouses	24	16	67	8	33
Major retail	27	14	52	13	48
Mineral workings	11	3	27	8	73
Other major development	325	129	40	196	60

2007

		Upheld		*Dismissed*	
Category	*Total decisions*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Minor dwellings (less than 10)	6,524	1,871	29	4,653	71
Minor offices	99	43	43	56	57
Minor manufacturers/stores/warehouses	85	37	44	48	56
Minor retail	207	89	43	118	57
Other minor development	3,442	1,511	44	1,931	56
Householder development	6,655	2,409	36	4,246	64
Change of use	1,834	718	39	1,116	61

2008

		Upheld		*Dismissed*	
Category	*Total decisions*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Major dwellings (10 or more)	1,344	431	32	913	68
Major offices	20	10	50	10	50
Major manufacturers/stores/warehouses	23	18	78	5	22
Major retail	32	14	44	18	56
Mineral workings	15	7	47	8	53
Other major development	349	155	44	194	56
Minor dwellings (less than 10)	7,525	2,072	38	5,453	72
Minor offices	133	51	38	82	62
Minor manufacturers/stores/warehouses	118	41	35	77	65
Minor retail	166	68	41	98	59
Other minor development	2,538	1,014	40	1,524	60
Householder development	7,049	2,515	36	4,534	64
Change of use	1,767	706	40	1,061	60

2009

		Upheld		*Dismissed*	
Category	*Total decisions*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Major dwellings (10 or more)	814	310	38	504	62
Major offices	16	7	44	9	56
Major manufacturers/stores/warehouses	12	7	58	5	42
Major retail	22	14	64	8	36
Mineral workings	7	4	57	3	43
Other major development	268	133	50	135	50
Minor dwellings (less than 10)	6,299	1,720	27	4,579	73
Minor offices	124	49	40	75	60
Minor manufacturers/stores/warehouses	99	29	29	70	71
Minor retail	185	83	45	102	55
Other minor development	2,305	949	41	1,356	59
Householder development	6,897	2,450	36	4,447	64
Change of use	1,371	540	39	831	61

2010

		Upheld		*Dismissed*	
Category	*Total decisions*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Major dwellings (10 or more)	644	231	36	413	64
Major offices	8	5	63	3	38
Major manufacturers/stores/warehouses	16	5	31	11	69
Major retail	37	22	59	15	41
Mineral workings	8	2	25	6	75
Other major development	219	104	47	115	53
Minor dwellings (less than 10)	4,675	1,158	25	3,517	75
Minor offices	92	34	37	58	63
Minor manufacturers/stores/warehouses	133	48	36	85	64
Minor retail	330	116	35	214	65
Other minor development	1,585	663	42	922	58
Householder development	6,581	2,312	35	4,269	65
Change of use	1,530	535	35	995	65

Special Advisers: Code of Conduct

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) with reference to the letter from the Cabinet Secretary to the right hon. Member for Don Valley of 10 May 2011, what the basis was for the investigation into allegations relating to comments made regarding Jenny Watson; [56225]

(2) whether he was involved in the investigation into alleged comments regarding Jenny Watson made by a member of his Department; [56226]

(3) whether the code of conduct for special advisers has been breached by any special adviser in his Department since May 2010. [56227]

Robert Neill: I refer the right hon. Member to my Department's Freedom of Information disclosure log entry on the Conduct of Ministers, special advisers and senior civil servants, disclosed on 5 April 2011, which provides a comprehensive reply:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/foi/disclosure-log/disclosurelog2011/april2011/conductministersadvisers/

Trade Unions

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial support his Department has provided to *(a)* the National Union of Teachers, *(b)* the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, *(c)* the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, *(d)* the National Association of Head Teachers and *(e)* schemes run by those organisations in each year since 1997. [56432]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) were created following the Machinery of Government Changes on 5 May 2006 and 29 May 2002 respectively.

The Department has not provided any financial support to any of the unions mentioned.

The Department and Government Offices have, however, on a number of occasions hired rooms/halls and equipment from the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Head Teachers for departmental events. Details of the payments are given in the following table. The 2010-11 payment, relating to the hire of Mander Hall for a PAN Government Agreement Member event, took place before the general election.

Details of payments prior to May 2002 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

£

Financial year	*National Union of Teachers*	*National Association of Head Teachers*
2002-03	182.26	0
2003-04	0	176.25
2005-06	1,482.00	0
2006-07	200.51	0
2007-09	0	0
2009-10	1,809.50	0
2010-11	893.88	0
Total	4,568.15	176.25

TREASURY

Enterprise Investment Scheme

Michael Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to extend Enterprise Investment Scheme relief to assets held via limited liability partnerships. [58471]

Justine Greening: The Government plans to publish a consultation document on changes to the Enterprise Investment Scheme and Venture Capital Trust Scheme shortly, building on the announcements made at Budget 2011.

Aggregates Levy Credit Scheme

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the European Commission since 8 March 2011 on state aid approval for the aggregates levy credit scheme in Northern Ireland. [58482]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 957W, to the hon. Member for Belfast East (Naomi Long).

Banks: Loans

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much of the money lent to small and medium-sized enterprises was lent to businesses based in Scotland in the first quarter of 2011. [57902]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 8 June 2011]:* On 9 February the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a new commitment by the UK's biggest high-street banks on lending expectations and capacity. As part of this commitment, the banks intend to lend £190 billion of new credit to businesses in 2011, up from £179 billion in 2010. If demand exceeds this, the banks will lend more. £76 billion of this lending will be to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This is a 15% increase on 2010 lending of £66 billion.

The Bank of England reported the banks' first quarter performance against the Merlin commitment on 23 May. The banks lent an aggregate total of £47.3 billion in the last quarter; within which, £16.8 billion was to SMEs. The Government are encouraged that the banks are broadly on track to meet their overall commitment, but the banks must do more to lend to SMEs.

The Treasury does not hold a regional breakdown of lending to SMEs in Scotland in the first quarter. However, in response to the Government's Green Paper on business finance, the BBA published the outcomes of their Business Finance Taskforce, which was written in conjunction with the six major UK banks. The Taskforce banks have committed to improving customer relationships through a new Lending Code, ensuring better access to finance and promoting better understanding. As part of these commitments, later this year, the banks will publish a regular cross-industry dataset that will show regional lending on an annual basis.

Disadvantaged: Financial Services

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to ensure that sectors which benefit from repaid debt other than the financial services sector contribute towards the funding of debt advice if responsibility for debt advice is transferred to the Money Advice Service. [58123]

Mr Hoban: Government are currently considering how the funding and provision of publicly supported debt advice can be put on a sustainable footing, for the future. These considerations include the possibility of the Money Advice Service taking on responsibility for the co-ordination of debt advice services, and whether existing provisions in the Financial Services Act 2010 which allow the Office of Fair Trading to apply a levy on consumer credit licensees and applicants to contribute to funding the Money Advice Service, should be used.

Excise Duties: Biofuels

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of the 20 pence fuel duty differential for biodiesel. [57331]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 24 May 2011]:* The duty differential will end as intended on 31 March 2012. Under changes to the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO), additional support for biofuels from waste including used cooking oil is being provided by double counting the contribution they make toward national targets. An open consultation is currently under way at

www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open

and the industry is invited to respond.

Public Sector: Investment

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of public sector net investment was in each year since 1981. [57564]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 7 June 2011]:* Public sector net investment since 1981 was:

	£ billion
1981-82	2.6
1982-83	4.5
1983-84	5.7
1984-85	5.3
1985-86	4.3
1986-87	2.7
1987-88	2.6
1988-89	1.7
1989-90	6.6
1990-91	7.8
1991-92	10.8
1992-93	11.6
1993-94	9.4
1994-95	9.8
1995-96	10.1
1996-97	5.4
1997-98	4.8
1998-99	6.0
1999-2000	5.5
2000-01	5.1
2001-02	11.9
2002-03	13.8
2003-04	15.6
2004-05	20.6
2005-06	23.5
2006-07	25.8
2007-08	28.9
2008-09	46.6
2009-10	49.5
2010-11	41.1

The 2010 spending review also set out higher capital spending in each year to 2014-15 than the previous Government's plans.

Retail Prices Index

Mr Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what purposes he proposes to use the retail prices index as the measure of inflation. [54616]

Justine Greening: In June 2010 the Government announced that from April 2011 the consumer prices index (CPI) rather than the retail prices index (RPI) will be used for the indexation of all benefits, tax credits and public service pensions.

Budget 2011 announced that from April 2012 the default indexation assumption for direct taxes will switch from the RPI to the CPI. To ensure employers and older people do not lose out, the annual increases in the employer national insurance contributions threshold, and the age-related allowance and other thresholds for older people, will be over-indexed compared to the CPI, and will increase by the equivalent of the RPI. The personal allowance will increase from 2013-14 by at least the equivalent of the RPI, until the Government's goal of increasing the personal allowance to £10,000 is achieved.

The default indexation assumption for indirect taxes and index-linked gilts is currently RPI. The Government expect to undertake a formal consultation on the issuance of CPI-linked gilts in 2011-12. The Government will also review the use of the CPI for indirect taxes once their fiscal consolidation plans have been implemented and the duty increases they inherited from the previous Government have come to an end.

Taxation: Self-assessment

Tessa Munt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what classes of individual are not allowed to file tax returns online; and for what reasons in each case. [57994]

Mr Gauke: The vast majority of Self Assessment taxpayers can take advantage of HMRCs online services to file their tax return via the internet. However, a small proportion of SA taxpayers are not able to file online, usually because they need to complete special dedicated pages.

A full list of these exclusions is available on the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/ebu/2011-exc-indi.pdf

These customers are not able to file online as it would be disproportionately costly to develop the necessary forms and links to departmental computer systems.

Trust Ports: Sales

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any receipts due to the Government from any sale of trust ports are to be hypothecated to the Green Investment Bank. [57642]

Justine Greening: The Department for Transport would consider any applications by a trust port for privatisation, against their published criteria.

Should there be a proposal to dispose of a trust port, the Government would announce at an appropriate moment whether proceeds from such a disposal might be allocated to the Green Investment Bank.

EDUCATION

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of his Department's employees categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* number of employees taking voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [57613]

Tim Loughton: The Government are committed to transparency and the availability of data and are currently exploring options for the more frequent publication of this type of workforce management information across the civil service.

Staff information is published annually within the Department's Resource Accounts and is available on the Department's website. Information for the last financial year (2010-11) will be available after the first week of July 2011:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmental information/reports/a00390/annual-departmental-reports-accounts-and-spending-reviews

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department plans to cease to fund any of its functions over the period of the comprehensive spending review. [55189]

Tim Loughton: The Business Plan for the Department for Education sets out the Department's priorities over this spending review period. These priorities include the rationalisation of the Department's arm's length bodies and merging some of their functions into four new executive agencies to improve the transparency, accountability and efficiency of the way the education system is supported. This will reduce the administrative cost of the DfE in line with the commitments set out in the spending review.

GCE A-level

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the relative number of students taking each A level subject in *(a)* sixth form colleges and *(b)* maintained schools in each of the last five years. [57538]

Mr Gibb: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

History: Qualifications

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of students sat *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level examinations in history in each of the last five years. [55930]

Mr Gibb: The percentage of students who were entered for GCSEs and A-levels in history in each of the last five years is given in the following table.

	Percentage of pupils entered for GCSE history[1, 2]	*Percentage of pupils entered for A-level history*[3]
2006	32	16
2007	31	16
2008	31	16
2009	32	16
2010	31	17

[1] Figures from 2001 to 2004 relate to pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year.

[2] Figures from 2005 relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

[3] 16 to 18-year-old candidates entered for GCE/Applied GCE A-levels and Double Awards.

Source:

School and College Performance Tables.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on age-appropriate relationships education in schools. [57630]

Mr Gibb: All schools are encouraged to provide age-appropriate sex and relationships education (SRE) as part on non-statutory personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education. In primary schools, education about relationships should focus on friendship, bullying and building self-esteem. Education about relationships in secondary schools should build on existing skills and knowledge and provide young people with opportunities to explore deeper issues around relationships, such as how relationships change over time and how to deal with a breakdown in relationships. Within the context of talking about relationships, pupils should be taught about the nature of marriage and other stable relationships, and their importance for family life and for bringing up children.

Religion: GCSE

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will review periodically *(a)* the number of schools offering GCSE religious education and *(b)* the humanities element of the English Baccalaureate. [57475]

Mr Gibb: We will continue to monitor all subjects being taught by all teachers in maintained secondary schools through the School Workforce Census. This information is collected annually, and is published in spring each year. We will also be examining trends in GCSE entries.

Separation

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how much his Department spent on relationship support services with respect to family separation in each of the last four years; [57635]

(2) whether the funding allocated for relationship support services with respect to family separation in the next four years is additional to existing grant spending in this area. [57634]

Sarah Teather: In December 2010, the Prime Minister announced a dedicated fund of £30 million over the next four years to support couple relationships. The majority of this funding will be allocated to the voluntary and community sector. Prior to this there was no dedicated funding for relationship support services.

From April 2006 to March 2011, some funding was granted to voluntary and community sector organisations to deliver relationship support services as part of the Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) Grant programme. This funding was awarded as part of support for families more generally, so cannot be separated out in detail for the whole of this period, but the funding to organisations delivering a range of relationship support over the period 2009-11 was £10 million. In addition, across the period 2009-11 funding of £4.5 million was made available to fund child poverty pilots which specifically focused on supporting parents through separation.

The CYPF grant was replaced by the VCS grant in April 2011 with the aim of increasing the take-up and availability of relationship support. Work funded under this grant covers all stages of relationships including those experiencing separation.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to respond to questions 55761 and 55767, on the Frank Buttle Trust, tabled on 11 May 2011 for answer on 13 May 2011. [58469]

Tim Loughton: The Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, my hon. Friend the Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr Hayes), answered these questions on 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 626W.

JUSTICE

Community Orders

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether the Cabinet Office Statement of Practice on Staff Transfers in the Public Sector applies to the National Offender Management Service's Community Payback Procurement; [58463]

(2) when he expects to complete the National Offender Management Service Community Payback Procurement; [58473]

(3) whether compliance with the Code of Practice on Workforce Matters in Public Sector Contracts was set as a condition during the competition for providers to be accepted onto the National Offender Management Service Community Payback National Provider Framework; [58474]

(4) what assumptions the National Offender Management Service has made regarding the source of funding for the day-to-day bulk transfer of accrued pension service of any probation staff transferred to the private sector as a result of a private contractor on the Community Payback National Provider Framework winning a contract to provide Community Payback. [58475]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice will apply the prevailing Government policy at the time of transfer.

The procurement for the National Offender Management Service Community Payback Procurement is planned to be completed by April 2013.

All bidders and subsequent providers that were awarded the Community Payback National Provider Framework demonstrated that they would comply with the prevailing Government policy.

All bidders and subsequent providers that were awarded the zero value Community Payback National Provider Framework were provided with a Principles of Competition document as part of the competition process. The Principles of Competition stated the following in relation to Admitted Body Status (ABS) or where pension requirements are to be met through a broadly comparable scheme:

For ABS:

> "The contractor will be required to fund, over the course of the contract, the benefits accruing during the period of that contract for those staff covered by the admission agreement. Pension liabilities accruing during the period of the contract should be fully paid for by the end of the contract. This will include any additional costs for increases in past service liabilities because of decisions made by the contractor for its pensionable employees, such as pay increases in excess of those paid by the contracting authority."

For a broadly comparable scheme:

> "it is required that the comparability is certified by the Government Actuary's Department. A broadly comparable scheme will be one which, in the professional opinion of the actuary, satisfies the condition that there are no identifiable employees who will suffer material detriment overall in terms of their future accrual of pension benefits under the alternative scheme." The pension scheme arrangements would be notified to the Authority as part of the response to the Lot specific mini-competitions. Given that the mini-competitions have yet to take place the precise terms relating to pension provision is not known at present."

The pension scheme arrangements would be notified to the Authority as part of the response to the Lot specific mini-competitions. Given that the mini-competitions have yet to take place the precise terms relating to how admitted body status will be applied is not known at present.

Driving Offences: Speed Limits

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the expected date of publication is for data on *(a)* convictions, *(b)* cautions and *(c)* fixed penalty notices in respect of speeding offences in each police force area in England and Wales in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [58368]

Mr Blunt: The publication date for court proceedings data including convictions and cautions in respect of speeding offences in England and Wales for the calendar year of 2010 was 26 May 2011. Data for 2011 will be available quarterly on a rolling annual basis; the first quarterly covering April 2010 to March 2011 will be available on 25 August 2011. Data for the calendar year of 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

Data on fixed penalty notices for speeding offences in England and Wales for 2010 are expected to be published by the Home Office in April 2012, with figures for 2011 expected to be published in April 2013.

Office of the Chief Coroner

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what budget had been proposed for the Office of the Chief Coroner for each year of the comprehensive spending review period prior to his decision on the future of that office. [58466]

Mr Djanogly: The cost of implementing Part One of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, which provides for the creation of the Office of Chief Coroner, has previously been placed in the Library. These show estimated costs of:

	£ million
2011-12	[1]10.9
2012-13	6.6
2013-14	6.6
2014-15	6.6

[1] Includes creation of office and cost of shadow running year.

Prisons: Industrial Health and Safety

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of risks to the health and safety of prison officers at work. [58580]

Mr Blunt: Under Prison Service Instruction (PSI) 42/2010, governing governors of prisons are required to ensure that an assessment of the risks to which their staff and others who may be affected by their undertakings are exposed, is carried out and that measures are in place to eliminate or control the risk.

There is an ongoing requirement on prison managers to complete risk assessments. All risk assessments are subject to review at least annually but more frequently where there has been a significant change in an activity or process that may introduce new risk(s).

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not collect information centrally as to whether risk assessments have been carried out. This will be identified by active monitoring of health and safety performance in prisons and/or via audit.

An audit of the health and safety performance of each prison is carried out every three years by departmental health and safety advisers. The audit focuses on the procedures in place for implementing the requirements of health and safety legislation, including arrangements for carrying out risk assessments. A report is prepared for governors which includes any deficiencies identified during the audit, the actions required to ensure compliance with legislation and prison service guidance and time scales for implementation.

Prisons: Manpower

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to retain prison officers. [58401]

Mr Blunt: The retention rates for prison officers are given in the following table.

Prison officers

	Leaving	Percentage Retention
2006-07	3.7	96.3
2007-08	3.4	96.6
2008-09	2.9	97.1
2009-10	2.4	97.6
2010-11	2.6	97.4

No additional steps are being considered at this stage.

Prisons: Ministers of Religion

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which prison establishments employed an imam in each year since 2007; [58754]

(2) how many prisons imams have been dismissed since 2007; and for what reasons in each case. [58756]

Mr Blunt: Information on the establishments within the National Offender Management Service that directly employed a Muslim Chaplain (Imam) on 31 March each year since 2007 is contained in the following table. A number of these will cover more than one establishment. Other establishments will use Muslim Chaplains on a fee-paid basis.

There have been two Muslim Chaplains dismissed from direct employment within the National Offender Management Service since 1 January 2007. The dismissal was recorded as being on the grounds of conduct in one case and for the conveyance of unauthorised item in the other.

Establishments with directly employed Muslim Chaplains (a single Muslim Chaplain may cover more than one establishment)

31 March 2011

Altcourse
Ashfield
Aylesbury
Bedford
Belmarsh
Blantyre House
Blundeston
Brinsford
Bristol
Brixton
Bronzefield
Buckley Hall
Bullingdon
Bullwood Hall
Canterbury
Chelmsford
Coldingley
Dartmoor
Deerbolt
Dorchester
Dovegate
Dover
Durham
Elmley
Erlestoke
Everthorpe

Featherstone
Feltham
Forest Bank
Frankland
Full Sutton
Gartree
Glen Parva
Grendon
Guys Marsh
Haslar
Hewell
High Down
Highpoint
Hindley
Holme House
Isis
Isle of Wight
Kennet
Kirkham
Kirklevington Grange
Lancaster Farms
Latchmere House
Leeds
Leicester
Lewes
Leyhill
Lindholme
Littlehey
Liverpool
Long Lartin
Lowdham Grange
Maidstone
Manchester
Moorland
Norwich
Nottingham
Onley
Parc
Pentonville
Peterborough
Portland
Preston
Ranby
Reading
Risley
Rochester
Rye Hill
Shrewsbury
Stocken
Stoke Heath
Sudbury
Swaleside
Swinfen Hall
The Mount
Wakefield
Wandsworth
Wayland
Wealstun
Wellingborough
Whitemoor
Wolds
Woodhill
Wormwood Scrubs
Wymott

31 March 2010

Altcourse
Ashfield
Ashwell
Aylesbury
Bedford
Belmarsh
Birmingham
Blantyre House
Blundeston
Brinsford
Bristol
Brixton
Bronzefield
Buckley Hall
Bullingdon
Bullwood Hall
Canterbury
Chelmsford
Coldingley
Deerbolt
Dorchester
Dovegate
Dover
Edmunds Hill
Elmley
Erlestoke
Everthorpe
Featherstone
Feltham
Forest Bank
Frankland
Full Sutton
Glen Parva
Grendon
Guys Marsh
Haslar
Hewell
High Down
Highpoint
Hindley
Holme House
Hull
Huntercombe
Kennet
Kirkham
Kirklevington Grange
Lancaster Farms
Leeds
Leicester
Lewes
Leyhill
Lincoln
Lindholme

Littlehey
Liverpool
Long Lartin
Lowdham Grange
Maidstone
Manchester
Moorland
Norwich
Onley
Parc
Parkhurst
Pentonville
Peterborough
Portland
Preston
Ranby
Reading
Risley
Rochester
Rye Hill
Shrewsbury
Stocken
Stoke Heath
Sudbury
Swaleside
Swinfen Hall
The Mount
Wakefield
Wandsworth
Wealstun
Wellingborough
Whitemoor
Wolds
Woodhill
Wormwood Scrubs
Wymott

31 March 2009

Altcourse
Ashfield
Bedford
Belmarsh
Birmingham
Blundeston
Brinsford
Brixton
Bronzefield
Buckley Hall
Bullingdon
Chelmsford
Coldingley
Dovegate
Dover
Durham
Edmunds Hill
Elmley
Everthorpe
Featherstone
Feltham
Frankland
Full Sutton
Gartree
Glen Parva
Grendon
Guys Marsh
Hewell
High Down
Highpoint
Hindley
Huntercombe
Kennet
Kirkham
Leeds
Leicester
Lincoln
Lindholme
Liverpool
Long Lartin
Lowdham Grange
Manchester
Moorland
Nottingham
Onley
Parc
Parkhurst
Pentonville
Peterborough
Portland
Ranby
Reading
Risley
Rochester
Rye Hill
Shrewsbury
Stocken
Stoke Heath
Swaleside
Swinfen Hall
The Mount
Wakefield
Wandsworth
Wealstun
Wellingborough
Whitemoor
Wolds
Woodhill
Wormwood Scrubs
Wymott

31 March 2008

Altcourse
Ashfield
Bedford
Belmarsh
Birmingham
Blakenhurst
Blundeston
Brixton
Bronzefield
Buckley Hall

Bullingdon
Chelmsford
Coldingley
Dovegate
Dover
Durham
Edmunds Hill
Everthorpe
Featherstone
Feltham
Frankland
Full Sutton
Glen Parva
Guys Marsh
High Down
Highpoint
Hindley
Huntercombe
Kennet
Kirkham
Leicester
Lincoln
Lindholme
Liverpool
Long Lartin
Lowdham Grange
Manchester
Moorland
Nottingham
Onley
Parc
Parkhurst
Pentonville
Peterborough
Portland
Ranby
Reading
Risley
Rye Hill
Sheppey Cluster
Shrewsbury
Stoke Heath
Swinfen Hall
The Mount
Wakefield
Wandsworth
Wealstun
Wellingborough
Whitemoor
Wolds
Woodhill
Wormwood Scrubs
Wymott

31 March 2007

Altcourse
Ashfield
Aylesbury
Bedford
Belmarsh
Birmingham
Blakenhurst
Brixton
Bronzefield
Buckley Hall
Bullingdon
Cardiff
Channings Wood
Coldingley
Doncaster
Dovegate
Dover
Elmley
Featherstone
Feltham
Forest Bank
Frankland
Full Sutton
Highpoint
Hindley
Leicester
Lincoln
Lindholme
Liverpool
Lowdham Grange
Manchester
Moorland
Nottingham
Pentonville
Peterborough
Portland
Reading
Risley
Rye Hill
Standford Hill
Swaleside
Swinfen Hall
The Mount
The Verne
Thorn Cross
Wakefield
Wandsworth
Whitemoor
Wolds
Woodhill
Wormwood Scrubs.

Information has not been received from HMP Doncaster.

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been paid in public funds to prison imams in each year since 2007. [58755]

Mr Blunt: I am replying as the Minister for prisons. There is no information centrally available on the payments made to Muslim Chaplains (Imams). To provide this information would require manual data gathering in all public sector prisons and result in disproportionate costs.

Prisons: Retirement

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has any plans to change the retirement age for prison officers. [58402]

Mr Blunt: Yes. The National Offender Management Service is removing the default retirement age for prison officers from 1 October 2011, with transitional arrangements from 6 April 2011, in accordance with the Employment Equality (Repeal of Retirement Age Provisions) Regulations 2011.

Reparation by Offenders: Charities

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many charitable bodies were the direct beneficiaries of Community Payback in the financial year 2010-11. [58408]

Mr Blunt: The identity of organisations which benefit from Community Payback is not recorded by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS).

A survey of Community Payback work projects has been undertaken during the month of March since 2006. The voluntary and charitable sector has continued to be the largest single beneficiary of Community Payback since 2006. Full data are not yet available in relation to the survey undertaken in March 2011. However the survey undertaken in March 2010 indicated that some 30% of the hours worked by offenders benefited the voluntary sector.

Super Injunctions

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when he will bring forward proposals for the membership of the joint committee to consider law and guidance in relation to super-injunctions; [58009]

(2) whether he proposes that the joint committee to consider law and guidance in relation to super-injunctions will consider the use of parliamentary privilege as part of its work; [58110]

(3) by what date he plans to propose that the joint committee to consider law and guidance in relation to super-injunctions should report. [58111]

Mr Djanogly: We are in the process of liaising with the chairs of the Committees with an interest in this area and with the House authorities regarding the terms of reference, membership and timetable for the new Joint Committee. An announcement will be made on these issues soon.

Youth Justice Board: Office of the Chief Coroner

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what costs his Department will incur as a result of its decisions on the future of *(a)* the Youth Justice Board and *(b)* the Office of the Chief Coroner. [58465]

Mr Blunt: The information is as follows:

(a) It is estimated that the Youth Justice Board will make savings of approximately £6 million by 2014-15 from its operating costs as result of the transition of some of its functions into the Ministry of Justice. The transition process itself will incur some costs which will reduce any planned savings in the initial year of transition. The Ministry of Justice and the Youth Justice Board are working together to identify the extent of the costs involved in the transition process.

(b) As announced in the written ministerial statement on 14 October 2010, changes to the coroners' services will be cost-neutral. Therefore the only expenditure incurred by the Department relates to staff costs for implementing part 1 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. In the period between Royal Assent in November 2009 and 30 March 2011, staffing costs were £387,140. The decision to transfer Chief Coroner functions without fully establishing the office means that the estimated £10.9 million set-up costs, and £6.6 million running costs would no longer be incurred by the public purse.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

AWE Aldermaston

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the specific activity level was of *(a)* uranium and *(b)* plutonium in each air filter sample from the high volume air samplers deployed by the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston in (i) February, (ii) March and (iii) April 2011. [57242]

Peter Luff: I have been asked to reply.

The amount of uranium and plutonium in each air filter sample from the high volume air samplers deployed by the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston and other locations from January until 7-8 April 2011 (the latest date for which figures are available) is presented in the following tables. In all cases, these figures are significantly lower than would require notification to the Environment Agency and all variations in off-site and perimeter readings are due to variations in naturally occurring background radiation.

Table 1: High volume air sampler results, January to 7 April 2011; AWE Aldermaston site perimeter

UKAS	*Location*	*Period*	$^{238}Pu + ^{(239+240)}Pu$ *nBqm*$^{-3}$ *(air)*	*Total Uranium nBqm*$^{-3}$ *(air)*	*Dust Loading on Filter microgrammes/m*^{3}
N	R001H	16 December 2010 to 4 January 2011	<30	103 ± 21	3.60
N		4 January 2011 to 13 January 2011	<30	66 ± 25	5.07
N		13 January 2011 to 27 January 2011	<30	133 ± 25	6.95
N		27 January 2011 to 10 February 2011	<30	145 ± 40	10.45
N		10 February 2011 to 24 February 2011	<30	178 ± 28	8.42
N		24 February 2011 to 10 March 2011	<30	280 ± 38	12.35
N		10 March 2011 to 24 March 2011	<30	369 ± 41	12.35
N		24 March 2011 to 7 April 2011	<30	361 ± 53	
N	R002H	16 December 2010 to 4 January 2011	<30	114 ± 24	5.13

Table 1: High volume air sampler results, January to 7 April 2011; AWE Aldermaston site perimeter

UKAS	*Location*	*Period*	$^{238}Pu + {}^{(239+240)}Pu$ $nBqm^{-3}$ *(air)*	*Total Uranium* $nBqm^{-3}$ *(air)*	*Dust Loading on Filter microgrammes/m*^{3}
N		4 January 2011 to 13 January 2011	<30	<40	5.71
N		13 January 2011 to 27 January 2011	<30	196 ± 31	9.38
N		27 January 2011 to 10 February 2011	<30	162 ± 28	11.97
N		10 February 2011 to 24 February 2011	<30	181 ± 28	9.89
N		24 February 2011 to 10 March 2011	<30	142 ± 33	5.52
N		10 March 2011 to 24 March 2011	<30	171 ± 26	6.13
N		24 March 2011 to 7 April 2011	<30	264 ± 46	
N	R004H	16 December 2010 to 4 January 2011	<30	46 ± 26	1.44
N		04 January 2011 to 13 January 2011	<30	<40	0.84
N		13 January 2011 to 27 January 2011	<30	<40	16.45
N		27 January 2011 to 10 February 2011	<30	<40	0.98
N		10 February 2011 to 24 February 2011	<30	<40	1.03
N		24 February 2011 to 10 March 2011	<30	51 ± 14	1.92
N		10 March 2011 to 24 March 2011	<30	<40	0.98
N		24 March 2011 to 7 April 2011	<30	289 ± 46	
N	R006H	16 December 2010 to 4 January 2011	<30	115 ± 23	3.52
N		04 January 2011 to 13 January 2011	<30	62 ± 48	4.83
N		13 January 2011 to 27 January 2011	<30	117 ± 24	6.51
N		27 January 2011 to 10 February 2011	<30	129 ± 25	8.94
N		10 February 2011 to 24 February 2011	<30	142 ± 45	6.66
N		24 February 2011 to 10 March 2011	<30	399 ± 50	11.68
N		10 March 2011 to 24 March 2011	<30	346 ± 46	10.09
N		24 March 2011 to 7 April 2011	<30	288 ± 50	
N	R007H	16 December 2010 to 4 January 2011	<30	174 ± 27	5.63
N		04 January 2011 to 13 January 2011	<30	88 ± 27	6.44
N		13 January 2011 to 27 January 2011	<30	269 ± 49	11.65
N		27 January 2011 to 10 February 2011	<30	427 ± 47	17.09
N		10 February 2011 to 24 February 2011	<30	267 ± 40	12.40
N		24 February 2011 to 10 March 2011	<30	744 ± 66	24.80
N		10 March 2011 to 24 March 2011	<30	1015 ± 73	25.15
N		24 March 2011 to 7 April 2011	<30	725 ± 70	
N	R009H	16 December 2010 to 4 January 2011	<30	118 ± 23	4.71
N		04 January 2011 to 13 January 2011	<30	65 ± 42	6.83
N		13 January 2011 to 27 January 2011	<30	173 ± 29	8.82
N		27 January 2011 to 10 February 2011	<30	218 ± 36	12.25
N		10 February 2011 to 24 February 2011	<30	168 ± 30	8.63
N		24 February 2011 to 10 March 2011	<30	228 ± 38	7.72
N		10 March 2011 to 24 March 2011	<30	334 ± 56	12.01
N		24 March 2011 to 7 April 2011	<30	361 ± 53	
N	R072H	16 December 2010 to 4 January 2011	<30	155 ± 23	5.04
N		04 January 2011 to 13 January 2011	<30	73 ± 25	6.44
N		13 January 2011 to 27 January 2011	<30	272 ± 35	8.60
N		27 January 2011 to 10 February 2011	<30	149 ± 27	10.30
N		10 February 2011 to 24 February 2011	<30	123 ± 28	8.10
N		24 February 2011 to 10 March 2011	<30	349 ± 38	13.11
N		10 March 2011 to 24 March 2011	<30	456 ± 55	13.49
N		24 March 2011 to 7 April 2011	<30	537 ± 63	

Note:

Uranium detected in all samples had a $^{238}U/^{234}U$ ratio = 1, which indicated that the two isotopes were in equilibrium, implying a purely natural origin.

Table 2: High volume air sampler results, January to 7 April 2011; off-site locations

UKAS	*Location*	*Period*	$^{238}Pu + {}^{(239+240)}Pu$ $nBqm^{-3}$ *(air)*	*Total Uranium* $nBqm^{-3}$ *(air)*	*Dust Loading on Filter microgrammes/m*^{3}
N	Hannington	16 December 2010 to 4 January 2011	<30	94 ± 26	1.91
N		04 January 2011 to 13 January 2011	<30	67 ± 22	4.33
N		13 January 2011 to 27 January 2011	<30	140 ± 40	6.75

Table 2: High volume air sampler results, January to 7 April 2011; off-site locations

UKAS	*Location*	*Period*	$^{238}Pu + ^{(239+240)}Pu$ *nBqm*$^{-3}$ *(air)*	*Total Uranium nBqm*$^{-3}$ *(air)*	*Dust Loading on Filter microgrammes/m*^{3}
N		27 January 2011 to 10 February 2011	<30	96 ± 21	7.34
N		10 February 2011 to 24 February 2011	<30	72 ± 29	2.82
N		24 February 2011 to 10 March 2011	<30	230 ± 41	10.60
N		10 March 2011 to 24 March 2011	<30	220 ± 32	4.14
N		24 March 2011 to 7 April 2011	<30	327 ± 45	
N	Thatcham	16 December 2010 to 4 January 2011	<30	137 ± 26	4.84
N		04 January 2011 to 13 January 2011	<30	51 ± 44	5.10
N		13 January 2011 to 27 January 2011	<30	167 ± 28	7.25
N		27 January 2011 to 10 February 2011	<30	148 ± 28	7.71
N		10 February 2011 to 24 February 2011	<30	143 ± 27	7.14
N		24 February 2011 to 10 March 2011	<30	271 ± 35	11.86
N		10 March 2011 to 24 March 2011	<30	352 ± 43	13.19
N		24 March 2011 to 7 April 2011	<30	361 ± 49	
N	Reading	16 December 2010 to 4 January 2011	<30	125 ± 24	5.03
N		04 January 2011 to 13 January 2011	<30	62 ± 24	5.40
N		13 January 2011 to 27 January 2011	<30	417 ± 42	9.00
N		27 January 2011 to 10 February 2011	<30	182 ± 30	9.77
N		10 February 2011 to 24 February 2011	<30	141 ± 25	7.26
N		24 February 2011 to 10 March 2011	<30	354 ± 40	15.19
N		10 March 2011 to 24 March 2011	<30	485 ± 49	17.75
N		24 March 2011 to 7 April 2011	<30	571 ± 71	
N	Basingstoke	16 December 2010 to 4 January 2011	<30	114 ± 23	4.60
N		04 January 2011 to 13 January 2011	<30	52 ± 22	5.24
N		13 January 2011 to 27 January 2011	<30	144 ± 31	7.36
N		27 January 2011 to 10 February 2011	<30	140 ± 33	10.70
N		10 February 2011 to 24 February 2011	<30	103 ± 26	6.87
N		24 February 2011 to 10 March 2011	<30	269 ± 37	10.91
N		10 March 2011 to 24 March 2011	<30	256 ± 39	10.46
N		24 March 2011 to 7 April 2011	<30	310 ± 50	
N	Tadley	16 December 2010 to 4 January 2011	<30	112 ± 26	3.75
N		04 January 2011 to 13 January 2011	<30	73 ± 27	5.72
N		13 January 2011 to 27 January 2011	<30	173 ± 28	8.82
N		27 January 2011 to 10 February 2011	<30	75 ± 21	3.41
N		10 February 2011 to 24 February 2011	<30	153 ± 39	11.14
N		24 February 2011 to 10 March 2011	<30	274 ± 43	11.93
N		10 March 2011 to 24 March 2011	<30	311 ± 53	12.37
N		24 March 2011 to 7 April 2011	<30	360 ± 49	
N	Silchester	16 December 2010 to 4 January 2011	<30	140 ± 27	4.03
N		04 January 2011 to 13 January 2011	<30	<40	5.39
N		13 January 2011 to 27 January 2011	<30	193 ± 29	8.54
N		27 January 2011 to 10 February 2011	<30	179 ± 33	12.56
N		10 February 2011 to 24 February 2011	<30	107 ± 27	7.40
N		24 February 2011 to 10 March 2011	<30	305 ± 44	12.96
N		10 March 2011 to 24 March 2011	<30	373 ± 44	13.58
N		24 March 2011 to 7 April 2011	<30	709 ± 79	
N	Mortimer	16 December 2010 to 4 January 2011	<30	<40	1.53
N		04 January 2011 to 13 January 2011	<30	<40	1.76
N		13 January 2011 to 27 January 2011	<30	<40	2.49
N		27 January 2011 to 10 February 2011	<30	45 ± 16	3.29
N		10 February 2011 to 24 February 2011	<30	54 ± 20	3.41
N		24 February 2011 to 10 March 2011	<30	324 ± 42	13.34
N		10 March 2011 to 24 March 2011	<30	474 ± 59	12.42
N		24 March 2011 to 7 April 2011	<30	265 ± 58	
N	Aldermaston	16 December 2010 to 4 January 2011	<30	123 ± 21	4.13

Table 2: High volume air sampler results, January to 7 April 2011; off-site locations

UKAS	*Location*	*Period*	*^{238}Pu + $^{(239+240)}$Pu nBqm^{-3} (air)*	*Total Uranium nBqm^{-3} (air)*	*Dust Loading on Filter microgrammes/m^3*
N		04 January 2011 to 13 January 2011	<30	<40	4.92
N		13 January 2011 to 27 January 2011	<30	120 ± 23	6.95
N		27 January 2011 to 10 February 2011	<30	157 ± 29	9.67
N		10 February 2011 to 24 February 2011	<30	56 ± 22	6.69
N		24 February 2011 to 10 March 2011	<30	235 ± 37	10.23
N		10 March 2011 to 24 March 2011	<30	413 ± 59	13.44
N		24 March 2011 to 7 April 2011	<30	560 ± 77	
N	AWE Burghfield	16 December 2010 to 4 January 2011	<30	145 ± 34	4.59
N		04 January 2011 to 13 January 2011	<30	139 ± 36	7.48
N		13 January 2011 to 27 January 2011	<30	204 ± 36	9.78
N		27 January 2011 to 10 February 2011	<30	492 ± 48	22.94
N		10 February 2011 to 24 February 2011	<30	494 ± 52	17.72
N		24 February 2011 to 10 March 2011	<30	1626 ± 104	48.39
N		10 March 2011 to 24 March 2011	<30	1540 ± 20117	44.01
N		24 March 2011 to 7 April 2011	<30	957 ± 76	

Note:
Uranium detected in all samples had a ^{238}U/^{234}U ratio = 1, which indicated that the two isotopes were in equilibrium, implying a purely natural origin.

Table 3: High volume air sampler results, January to 8 April 202011; non regulatory—internal locations to AWE(A)

Location	*Period*	*^{238}Pu + $^{(239+240)}$Pu nBqm^{-3} (air)*	*Total Uranium nBqm^{-3} (air)*	*Dust Loading on Filter microgrammes/m^3*
R003H WMG HVAS	17 December 10 to 5 January 2011	45 ± 8	58 ± 9	2.01
	5 January 2011 to 14 January 2011	<30	<40	1.73
	14 January 2011 to 28 January 2011	32 ± 18	87 ± 15	3.82
	28 January 2011 to 11 February 2011	<30	<40	2.20
	11 February 2011 to 25 February 2011	<30	<40	2.93
	25 February 2011 to 11 March 2011	36 ± 9	58 ± 2011	2.73
	11 March 2011 to 25 March 2011	58 ± 10	129 ± 17	4.72
	25 March 2011 to 8 April 2011	40 ± 10	101 ± 17	
R008H A Area	17 December 2010 to 5 January 2011	<30	<40	0.15
	5 January 2011 to 14 January 2011	<30	<40	0.29
	14 January 2011 to 28 January 2011	<30	<40	0.41
	28 January 2011 to 11 February 2011	<30	<40	0.45
	11 February 2011 to 25 February 2011	<30	<40	0.22
	25 February 2011 to 11 March 2011	<30	<40	0.49
	11 March 2011 to 25 March 2011	<30	<40	0.39
	25 March 2011 to 8 April 2011	<30	<40	
R010H Old WMG Portable HVAS	17 December 2010 to 5 January 2011	<30	<40	0.40
	5 January 2011 to 14 January 2011	<30	<40	0.51
	14 January 2011 to 28 January 2011	<30	<40	0.62
	28 January 2011 to 11 February 2011	<30	<40	0.60
	11 February 2011 to 25 February 2011	<30	<40	0.98
	25 February 2011 to 11 March 2011	<30	<40	0.68
	11 March 2011 to 25 March 2011	<30	<40	0.76
	25 March 2011 to 8 April 2011	<30	<40	
R012H A12K HVAS	17 December 2010 to 5 January 2011	<30	<40	0.39
	5 January 2011 to 14 January 2011	<30	<40	0.96
	14 January 2011 to 28 January 2011	<30	<40	0.67
	28 January 2011 to 11 February 2011	<30	<40	1.25
	11 February 2011 to 25 February 2011	<30	<40	0.43
	25 February 2011 to 11 March 2011	<30	47 ± 13	1.87
	11 March 2011 to 25 March 2011	<30	<40	0.96
	25 March 2011 to 8 April 2011	<30	92 ± 17	

Table 3: High volume air sampler results, January to 8 April 202011; non regulatory—internal locations to AWE(A)

Location	*Period*	^{238}*Pu* + $^{(239+240)}$*Pu nBqm*$^{-3}$ *(air)*	*Total Uranium nBqm*$^{-3}$ *(air)*	*Dust Loading on Filter microgrammes/m*^{3}
R014H A12P HVAS	17 December 2010 to 5 January 2011	<30	86 ± 13	2.53
	5 January 2011 to 14 January 2011	<30	<40	3.2011
	14 January 2011 to 28 January 2011	<30	105 ± 20	4.42
	28 January 2011 to 11 February 2011	<30	90 ± 21	6.13
	11 February 2011 to 25 February 2011	<30	81 ± 27	4.53
	25 February 2011 to 11 March 2011	<30	226 ± 27	8.41
	11 March 2011 to 25 March 2011	<30	263 ± 25	8.2011
	25 March 2011 to 8 April 2011	449 ± 41	205 ± 27	
R037H A37 HVAS	17 December 2010 to 5 January 2011**	<30	60 ± 15	3.01
	5 January 2011 to 14 January 2011	73 ± 37	<40	1.08
	14 January 2011 to 28 January 2011	<30	156 ± 31	5.93
	28 January 2011 to 11 February 2011	*520 ± 49	230 ± 40	10.19
	11 February 2011 to 25 February 2011	56 ± 18	20117 ± 29	6.54
	25 February 2011 to 11 March 2011**	44 ± 16	92 ± 19	7.49
	11 March 2011 to 25 March 2011**	85 ± 24	280 ± 40	18.27
	25 March 2011 to 8 April 2011	156544 ± 1302	101 ± 17	
R045H A45 HVAS	17 December 2010 to 5 January 2011	<30	141 ± 21	3.95
	5 January 2011 to 14 January 2011	<30	79 ± 25	4.84
	14 January 2011 to 28 January 2011	<30	150 ± 27	6.94
	28 January 2011 to 11 February 2011	<30	20119 ± 22	8.35
	11 February 2011 to 25 February 2011	<30	101 ± 24	7.05
	25 February 2011 to 11 March 2011	<30	232 ± 35	9.06
	11 March 2011 to 25 March 2011	<30	343 ± 40	8.76
	25 March 2011 to 8 April 2011	<30	331 ± 37	

* Denotes, plutonium result exceeded the AWE internal action/advisory limit of 500 nBq/m^{-3} Pu.

** Denotes two HVAS results combined. R037H filter was collected weekly for three collections and the values shown in this report are the combined result based on a weighted average. A weekly breakdown of results along with the method used to combine the values can be made available on request.

Notes:

1. Uranium detected in the sample collected from A45 (R045H) on 11 February 2011 had a ^{238}U/^{234}U ratio = <1, which indicated that the two isotopes were not in equilibrium. This implies the trace presence of uranium due to AWE's discharges in addition to uranium already present naturally.
2. Uranium detected in all other samples had a ^{238}U/^{234}U ratio = 1, which indicated that the two isotopes were in equilibrium, implying a purely natural origin.

Carbon Emissions

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of global man-made emissions which are attributable to the UK. [59198]

Gregory Barker: The Department recognises the importance of understanding greenhouse gas emissions associated with both production and consumption of goods and services. For the purposes of international climate change negotiations, the only practical basis for reducing greenhouse gas emissions globally is through multi-lateral agreements based on commitments made and actions taken by national governments. This approach underpins the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Department, therefore, publishes annual statistics on greenhouse gas emissions as required under international treaties and obligations. However, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has published data on greenhouse gas emissions associated with the consumption of goods and services and these can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/environment/green-economy/scptb01-ems/

Climate Change: EU Action

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has made to the European Commission on proposals to designate 5 per cent. of the EU budget to measures to address climate change. [58182]

Gregory Barker: While the Government's overriding priority is to reduce the size of the EU budget to reflect austerity measures being undertaken across the EU, we support a simultaneous and significant reprioritisation within the next financial perspective of the EU budget to support the EU's long-term priorities, including energy and climate change.

No representations have been made on this specific proposal and, indeed, the Government believe that spending on climate change, both in annual EU budgets and in the next financial perspective should be mainstreamed within existing budget headings, because on balance, such mainstreaming across all relevant headings is more effective and offers greater value for money than a dedicated fund.

Energy: Housing

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what definition of affordable warmth his Department uses. [58197]

Gregory Barker: Clauses 66 and 67 of the Energy Bill include provisions to set energy suppliers a 'home heating-cost reduction obligation' within the Energy Company Obligation. This is defined within the clauses as

> 'a target for the promotion of measures for reducing the cost to individuals of heating their homes'

and can be summarised as an 'affordable warmth' obligation. It is envisaged that support under this obligation would be targeted at those lower income and vulnerable households who are identified as needing support.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has considered the merits of asking the Committee on Climate Change to examine outsourced emissions and consumption-based accounting of greenhouse gas emissions. [58460]

Gregory Barker: The work programme for the Committee on Climate Change is planned and managed through an annual business planning process agreed between the Government, devolved Administrations and the Committee on Climate Change. The Government have no immediate plans to ask the CCC to undertake work on outsourced emissions.

We do, however, recognise the importance of the impact on emissions of the whole life cycle of the products we consume, and the increasingly global nature of supply chains means that there is a more and more complex picture of where in the life history of a product the emissions actually arise. The Government's Green Economy Programme is working to identify and help reduce the lifecycle carbon and other environmental impacts that are associated with UK consumption, wherever in the world those impacts occur.

Nuclear Power: Manpower

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of nuclear engineers required to deliver the UK's nuclear power station replacement programme. [57283]

Charles Hendry: Last year the Government commissioned Cogent, the Sector Skills Council for Nuclear, to produce a report looking at the impact of industry's plans to develop new build nuclear on the nuclear workforce. This report, "Next Generation: Skills for New Build Nuclear", was published in March 2010.

This published report does not provide a specific estimate for nuclear engineers from the total workforce required, under an indicative scenario of 16GW of nuclear new build, but does identify the requirements for the different engineering disciplines where there are perceived gaps and shortages and makes recommendations to address possible shortfalls. Progress on these recommendations is monitored by the Nuclear Energy Skills Alliance, a grouping of skills bodies that operate in the nuclear sector and Government.

The estimated requirements per reactor unit where there are perceived gaps and shortages include 140 design engineers at peak during the design and planning stage, 50 design engineers along with 40 manufacturing engineers and 20 non-destructive testing engineers at peak for equipment manufacture and 30 design engineers at peak during commissioning, operation and maintenance. A further report in this Labour Market research series is planned for publication by the end of this year which will update the previous information and provide further granularity.

Note:

A nuclear engineer is an engineer within the wide range of engineering disciplines, e.g. electrical, mechanical, civil, who in the context of this response works within the design, manufacturing and construction sectors of the nuclear industry.

Voltage Optimisation

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of voltage optimisation technology in reducing energy use; and if he will make a statement. [58272]

Gregory Barker: Voltage optimisation can deliver significant energy savings when properly matched to the appropriate types of load, for example commercial office environments where voltage optimisation can be combined with spike protection and phase-balancing and/or where the local grid voltage is high. It is generally less suited to industrial processes.

Two of the projects under Ofgem's Low Carbon Networks Fund are using new voltage control technology which will enable better network voltage control, system harmonics and allow increased network utilisation.

Wind Power

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* number and *(b)* total generating capacity of wind turbines is in each parliamentary constituency that (i) have been installed and (ii) are in receipt of planning permission. [57853]

Charles Hendry: The following annex provides data on a regional basis for onshore wind turbines in the UK that have been installed or are in receipt of planning permission, and their total generating capacity[1].

Data are not held on a parliamentary constituency basis. Details of the region and country—and in some cases the district and/or county—for each site are given in the Renewable Energy Planning Database (REPD) monthly extracts within the RESTATS database at:

https://restats.decc.gov.uk/app/reporting/decc/monthlyextract

National Statistics on all operational wind capacity (onshore and offshore) by UK country and English region, can be found in DECCs "Renewable electricity in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the regions of England" in September 2010's Energy Trends, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/trends/articles_issue/articlesissue.aspx

This will be updated for 2010 in September 2011.

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[1] These data exclude many small-scale, micro-generation sites, typically of less than 50 kW installed capacity.

Annex

Onshore wind turbine numbers and generating capacity by region

Region	*Status*	*Total number of turbines*	*Total generating capacity (MW)*
Scotland	Operational	1,535	2,560.22
	Under construction or consented awaiting construction	1,178	3,058.23
Wales	Operational	214	383.64
	Under construction or consented awaiting construction	101	232.74
Northern Ireland	Operational	237	336.16
	Under construction or consented awaiting construction	200	460.32
England			
East Midlands	Operational	85	122.95
	Under construction or consented awaiting construction	66	121.81
Eastern	Operational	59	134.93
	Under construction or consented awaiting construction	78	168.6
London	Operational	5	1.81
	Under construction or consented awaiting construction	11	13.05
North East	Operational	106	156.07
	Under construction or consented awaiting construction	143	350.78
North West	Operational	185	139.47
	Under construction or consented awaiting construction	92	186.78
South East	Operational	41	82.36
	Under construction or consented awaiting construction	12	22.28
South West	Operational	104	65.0
	Under construction or consented awaiting construction	104	228.5
West Midlands	Operational	3	1.22
	Under construction or consented awaiting construction	12	18.05
Yorkshire and Humber	Operational	108	121.24
	Under construction or consented awaiting construction	141	327.18

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 10 June 2011

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

House of Lords: Reform

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister with reference to the House of Lords Reform Draft Bill, if he will estimate (1) the additional resources required by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to administer the proposals to bring members of the House of Lords within the salary and expenses system operated by that Authority; [57539]

(2) the costs to the public purse of holding elections to a reformed House of Lords under the Single Transferable Vote system; [57541]

(3) the office costs to be incurred by peers in the proposed reformed House of Lords; [57542]

(4) the cost to the public purse of drawing up boundaries for constituencies for the election of members of the proposed reformed House of Lords; [57544]

(5) the cost to the public purse of the proposed arrangements for pension provision for peers; [57545]

(6) the cost of replacing the House of Lords as presently constituted with the model proposed in the Draft Bill. [57546]

Mr Harper: The Government will carefully consider the costs of reforming the House of Lords, including those incurred by elections.

Costs of providing and administering salaries, pensions and allowances for members of the reformed House of Lords will depend on a number of variables.

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister with reference to the House of Lords Reform Draft Bill, what his policy is on proposals that would enable parties not in Government to appoint or recommend peers for appointment to fulfil opposition frontbench functions in the proposed reformed House of Lords. [57540]

Mr Harper: The Government published proposals for a wholly or mainly elected House of Lords on 17 May. In a mainly elected House, a statutory appointments commission would recommend individuals to serve as appointed members. They would be expected to bring a non-party political perspective to their work. The Prime Minister will be able to appoint a limited number directly to the reformed House of Lords to serve as Ministers, for the duration of their ministerial office. The Government does not see any need to extend this to include Opposition spokesmen, as there is no requirement for Opposition spokesmen to be accountable to Parliament in the way Members of the Government are.

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister with reference to the House of Lords Reform Draft Bill, if he will estimate the number of peers in the proposed reformed House of Lords that would hold frontbench positions on behalf of their political party. [57543]

Mr Harper: The Government published proposals for a wholly or mainly elected House of Lords on 17 May. Political parties would be able to appoint members of the reformed House of Lords, in numbers which they would decide, to serve in frontbench positions on behalf of their party.

The number of paid Ministers in the reformed House of Lords will be restricted by the Ministerial and Other Salaries Act 1975, which provides for a maximum of 109 paid Ministers in both Houses.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress he has made on his proposals for House of Lords reform; and if he will make a statement. [57733]

Mr Harper: The Government published a White Paper and draft Bill on 17 May setting out proposals for a wholly or mainly elected reformed second chamber. Oral statements were made in both Houses. The White Paper and draft Bill are to be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny by a joint committee of both Houses. A Government Bill will then be introduced in the next session. The Government hope that the transition will start in 2015 with the first elections to the reformed House of Lords.

Mr Clappison: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 769, what plans he has to produce an estimate of the cost of a reformed House of Lords; and when he expects such an estimate to be available. [57848]

Mr Harper: The Government are carefully considering the costs of reforming the House of Lords, including those incurred by elections.

Costs of providing and administering salaries, pensions and allowances for members of the reformed House of Lords will depend on a number of variables. However, the Government will provide further details of costs during pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft House of Lords Reform Bill.

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he has proposed to the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers that it make a referral under Article 46(3) of the European Convention on Human Rights in respect of the judgments made by the European Court of Human Rights in respect of the United Kingdom's laws on the voting rights of prisoners. [57548]

Mr Harper: No. Article 46(3) of the European Convention of Human Rights is intended to enable the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers—in circumstances where they believe the supervision of the execution of a final judgment is hindered by a problem of interpretation of the judgment—to refer to the European

Court of Human Rights for a ruling on the interpretation of the judgment. Such a referral requires the support of a majority of two thirds of the Committee of Ministers—it is not open to the Governments of individual member states to use.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Sky Broadcasting: News Corporation

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which *(a)* law firms and *(b)* barristers his Department engaged to advise on the proposed takeover of BSkyB by News Corporation and related undertakings; and what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of such advice. [59092]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: This process is ongoing. Once completed, we will publish details requested by the hon. Member.

Departmental Legal Profession

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many lawyers are employed within his Department; and how many such lawyers are qualified to practise in England and Wales as *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers. [59086]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Department does not directly employ any lawyers. Lawyers are employed by the Treasury Solicitors Department and assigned to the Department.

There are currently 19 lawyers, and 1 trainee lawyer, assigned to the Department. All those lawyers (apart from the trainee) are qualified to practice in England and Wales as either solicitors or barristers.

SCOTLAND

Defence

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department has discussed with the Ministry of Defence proposals by the Scottish Government that a future independent Scotland could share defence capabilities and facilities with the UK. [57898]

Michael Moore: No. All personnel, wherever they are from in the UK, serve as part of the United Kingdom armed forces. The UK Government believes that being part of the UK is good for Scotland, and Scotland being part of the UK is good for the rest of the UK.

Departmental Responsibilities

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met the Secretary of State for Transport; and whether he discussed the future of Scottish coastguard stations at that meeting. [57896]

Michael Moore: I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Transport on a range of issues of mutual interest, including the future of Scottish coastguard stations. The consultation on the proposals to modernise Her Majesty's Coastguard closed on 5 May, and the Government will evaluate the responses to that and the conclusions of the Transport Select Committee's inquiry into the proposals before making any final decisions.

Scottish Grand Committee

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with officials in his Department on the Scottish Grand Committee. [57728]

David Mundell: I have regular discussions with my officials on a full range of matters relating to Scotland. I refer the hon. Lady to the answers given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland on 19 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 293-294W.

PRIME MINISTER

National Security Council

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Prime Minister on what dates the National Security Council has met since 1 April 2011. [58362]

The Prime Minister: The National Security Council has tended to meet weekly since its establishment and will continue to do so.

CABINET OFFICE

Businesses: Durham

Pat Glass: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many business start-ups in North West Durham constituency there *(a)* were in each month between June 2005 and May 2010 and *(b)* have been in each month since May 2010. [59072]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many business start-ups in North West Durham constituency there (a) were in each month between June 2005 and May 2010 and (b) have been in each month since May 2010. [59072]

Monthly statistics on business start ups are not available. Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births are available from 2002 onwards in the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available, which give the number of enterprise births from 2005 to 2009 in the constituency of North West Durham. Information relating to 2010 will be available following release of the latest Business Demography publication in December 2011.

Enterprises births in North West Durham from 2005–09

	Births
2005	305
2006	295
2007	365
2008	290
2009	265

Carbon Monoxide: Poisoning

George Hollingbery: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths in each age decile were due to accidental and unintended carbon monoxide poisoning from a domestic fuel source in each of the last 15 years. [58365]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many deaths in each age deciles, were due to accidental and unintended carbon monoxide poisoning from a domestic fuel source in each of the last 15 years. (58365)

The following table provides the number of deaths caused by accidental exposure to the toxic effect of carbon monoxide, by 10-year age group, in England and Wales, from 1995 to 2009 (the latest year available).

The information collected at death registration provides statistics on deaths which were caused by specific conditions or injuries. It is not possible to ascertain from these statistics whether the carbon monoxide was associated with a domestic fuel source.

Table 1. Number of deaths caused by accidental exposure to the toxic effect of carbon monoxide, by age group, England and Wales, 1995 to 2009[1, 2, 3, 4]

Deaths (persons)

	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+
1995	12	4	20	17	22	18	23	20	29
1996	15	5	21	19	18	18	19	20	23
1997	11	11	18	19	23	17	16	23	29
1998	5	5	11	24	14	22	21	20	20
1999	7	8	13	14	21	15	9	23	30
2000	6	7	9	20	11	19	16	19	24
2001	8	6	14	10	18	19	13	16	26
2002	9	1	11	14	17	17	16	10	20
2003	3	5	19	6	17	12	9	13	20
2004	7	4	8	14	12	11	12	14	17
2005	2	2	0	13	8	7	7	7	19
2006	6	1	4	10	16	18	6	15	11
2007	1	0	9	11	11	9	8	16	14
2008	1	0	5	9	14	16	10	9	21
2009	2	4	6	12	14	11	13	14	14

[1] Cause of death for accidents was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E800-E928 (excluding E870-E879) for the years 1995 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes V01-X59 for the years 2001 to 2009, where these codes appeared as the underlying cause.

[2] Cause of death for carbon monoxide poisoning was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 986 for the years 1995 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code T58 for the years 2001 to 2009, where these codes appeared as the secondary cause.

[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

TREASURY

Apprentices

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely number of additional apprenticeship places he expects to be created in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* parliamentary constituency in each of the next four years, following his decision to fund up to 50,000 additional apprenticeship places; and how many apprenticeship places in total he expects there to be in each case in each such year. [54602]

Mr Hayes: I have been asked to reply.

We are increasing funding for apprenticeships to £1.4 billion, sufficient to train over 360,000 apprentices in 2011-12. In the Budget we announced an additional £180 million package for 50,000 additional adult apprenticeship places over the spending review period. This is on top of the plans for growth in the apprenticeships programme that we published in Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth in November 2010 (for adults aged 19 and over) and the YPLA 16-19 "Funding Statement" (December 2010).

In support of the coalition Government's principle of greater freedom, Skills for Sustainable Growth and Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth set out the abolition of central targets and increased freedom and flexibility for further education colleges and training organisations to respond effectively to the needs of employers, learners and their communities. It is for individual colleges and training organisations, working directly with their local partners, to determine the offer that best meets the needs of their communities.

Accordingly, take-up of apprenticeships by region follows employer demand and we are not able to provide estimates of the geographical distribution of funding or Apprenticeship places, as these would be either too broad to be of use or would be potentially misleading.

Banks: Loans

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 353W, on business: finance, if he will estimate the proportion of the letters received by his Department since July 2007 concerning *(a)* Royal Bank of Scotland, *(b)* Northern Rock, *(c)* Bradford and Bingley and *(d)* Lloyds Banking Group that related to (i) removal of overdraft facilities and (ii) removal of loan facilities. [58383]

Mr Hoban: The Department does not hold that information. Correspondence is categorised by primary subject. The Department has not separately categorised letters by specific content.

Businesses: Government Assistance

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses have been assisted by the HM Revenue and Customs Business Support Service in the latest period for which figures are available. [58489]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 8 June 2011]:* The information requested is not available.

Between the launch of HMRC's Business Payment Support Service (BPSS) in November 2008 and 31 March 2011 428,800 arrangements were granted to businesses in the UK, to spread tax payments of £7.37 billion over an agreed period. However, some businesses will have made repeat arrangements and therefore this is not the specific number of businesses that have been assisted.

Corporation Tax

Ian Murray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of corporation tax received in Scotland was paid by banks and other financial institutions with headquarters in Scotland in the latest period for which figures are available. [58510]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 8 June 2011]:* The information requested is not available. HMRC publish statistics on United Kingdom corporation tax receipts for the financial sector, which includes banks. This information is regularly updated and published in Table 11.1 on the HMRC National Statistics website. The latest update is available here:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11_1.pdf

HMRC do not routinely estimate tax receipts at regional or country level.

Ian Murray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the amount foregone by the Exchequer in a financial year from a reduction in corporation tax payable in Scotland of *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three per cent. [58511]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 8 June 2011]:* The information requested is not available. HMRC do not routinely estimate the fiscal impact of corporation tax changes at regional or country level.

Financial Services Compensation Scheme

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent representations he has received on the review of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme; [58384]

(2) what recent meetings he has had with consumer groups on the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. [58385]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with and receive representations from a wide range of stakeholders including consumer groups as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

HM Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) change plan for 2011 on the overall level of employment at HMRC; and if he will make a statement. [59012]

Mr Gauke: At the beginning of the current financial year HMRC's staffing levels were at 66,000 full-time equivalent posts. HMRC's change plan anticipates that by the end of the financial year this will have reduced to 63,400 full-time equivalent posts, a reduction that HMRC is confident can be achieved through natural wastage as people leave the department to retire or to take up new posts in other organisations. HMRC will do everything it can to avoid compulsory redundancies and these will only be used as a very last resort.

The reduced staffing level will not be detrimental to customer service. HMRC's new customer-centric strategy focuses on the needs of its particular customer groups and enables it to provide an improved service and an improved customer experience at a lower cost.

Insurance: EU Law

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of progress on the Insurance Guarantee Scheme Directive. [58437]

Mr Hoban: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 7 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 128W, to the hon. Member for Calder Valley (Craig Whittaker).

Members: Correspondence

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Secretary to the Treasury plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Weaver Vale of 16 December 2010 and 8 March 2011 on behalf of his constituent, Mr Roger Wickins. [58303]

Mr Hoban: I wrote to all hon. Members on 21 February 2011 to set out the Government's overall position on Retail Distribution Review. This letter was in response to any outstanding correspondence that hon. Members may have raised.

Members: Income Tax

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons hon. Members are proposed to be exempted under section 554E of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003. [58485]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 8 June 2011]:* The exemption in point is contained in the disguised remuneration legislation in Finance (No. 3) Bill which is being introduced to counter attempts to use third party arrangements to avoid tax on employment income. The specific provision excludes payments made to MPs by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA). IPSA, who are otherwise a third party for the purposes of the legislation, makes certain payments to MPs to enable them to carry out their parliamentary duties. This is not tax avoidance and has therefore been excluded from the new rules. Other third party arrangements involving MPs would not be excluded from the new rules.

TRANSPORT

High Speed Two Railway Line

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse was of the Brackley High Speed Two Roadshow. [58844]

Mr Philip Hammond: The cost for the Brackley High Speed 2 Roadshow venue was £1,540. The exhibition material is owned by HS2 Ltd. This does not reflect staff time attending the events which would be difficult to break down per venue.

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse was of the Upper Boddington High Speed Two Roadshow. [58845]

Mr Philip Hammond: The cost for the Upper Boddington High Speed Two Roadshow venue was £330. The mobile exhibition vehicle is owned by HS2 Ltd. This cost does not reflect staff time attending the events which would be difficult to break down per venue.

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse was of the Chipping Warden High Speed Two Roadshow. [58846]

Mr Philip Hammond: The cost of the Chipping Warden High Speed Two Roadshow venue was £148.50. The mobile exhibition vehicle is owned by HS2 Ltd. This cost does not reflect staff time attending the events which would be difficult to break down per venue.

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse of the High Speed Two project has been to date. [58847]

Mr Philip Hammond: HS2 Ltd spent £24.1 million (excluding VAT) between January 2009, when it was established, and the end of the 2010-11 financial year. In addition, the Department spent £9.6 million on property purchases under the Exceptional Hardship Scheme up to the end of the 2010-11 financial year.

Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the consolidation of support mechanisms for low and ultra-low emission vehicle research and development to be complete. [56027]

Norman Baker: A decision on the consolidation of existing support mechanisms for ultra-low emission vehicle research and development has been delayed to ensure that it can be taken in the context of the electric vehicle infrastructure strategy, which is due to be published by the end of June.

This decision will be taken before the end of July 2011.

Motor Vehicles: Lighting

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the safety of high-intensity discharge lighting on vehicles. [58742]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has commissioned one report on high-intensity discharge (HID) lighting on vehicles and one report on headlamp glare which included HID lamps.

The first report, completed in 1994, was used to inform the UK negotiating position on the draft European Regulation on HID lighting. The second report, completed in 2001, investigated headlamp glare and driver vision and reviewed existing headlamp requirements including HID lamps.

The titles of the reports are:

TRL report number: PR/SRC/11/94, Gas Discharge Headlights by J Cobb and Wendy Gibbons.

Vehicle Lighting: Headlamp glare and driver vision by Andrew Shearlaw and Dean Southall (placed in House Library in 2004)

Railways: Passengers

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of future demand for London to Portsmouth passenger rail services. [57584]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport is currently working with Stagecoach South West Trains and Network Rail to assess future demand for London to Portsmouth passenger rail services with a view to securing additional passenger capacity.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Redundancy

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of employees of his Department that will be made redundant in each of the next three years; how many such employees he estimates are engaged in front-line duties; and if he will make a statement. [58935]

Maria Miller: No such estimate is currently available.

The Department for Work and Pensions is currently developing plans for achieving the 26% reduction of its core budget—including a 40% reduction of its corporate overheads—by 2014-15, announced in last year's spending review. Not all of this reduction will necessarily be achieved through headcount reductions.

Disability Living Allowance

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households receive the severe disability premium; and how many such households have a child who is caring for a disabled adult. [57981]

Maria Miller *[holding answer 8 June 2011]:* The Department for Work and Pensions do not hold specific management information on young carers as they are the responsibility of the Department for Education. However, 2001 census data suggest there are approximately 139,000 young carers in England, of whom 22,000 are caring for 20-50 hours a week. (More recent informal sources suggest that the numbers may be higher and we await the 2011 census data to confirm this.) Information on the number of households receiving the severe disability premium is given in the following table.

The issue of young carers is a challenging one and supporting them is a priority for is Government. The Government's new Carers Strategy, "Recognised, valued and supported: Next Steps for the Carers Strategy" has a strong focus on supporting young carers. It emphasises the important of adult and children's services, alongside the voluntary sector, working together to identify and support young carers.

The Government will continue to work with local authorities and the voluntary sector to break down barriers to effective practice and support the spread of evidence-based practice. That is why the Department for Education is funding the Children's Society and the Princess Royal Trust for Carers up to £1.5 million until March 2013. They will encourage 'whole family' approaches to supporting young carers and promote the new e-learning module that the Department for Education has developed for school staff on the needs of young carers.

My Department are considering the position of young carers within universal credit. For individuals and households who currently receive the severe disability premium there will be transitional protection where their universal credit would be less than under the old system, provided their circumstances remain the same.

Information on the number of households receiving the severe disability premium is given in the following table.

Number of IS, PC and JSA claimants with a severe disability premium—November 2010

Benefit	*Severe disability premium*
IS	228,560
PC	709,600
JSA	2,900

Notes:
1. Income support (IS) and pension credit (PC) figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Jobseeker's allowance (JSA) figures are to the nearest hundred.
2. IS figures exclude residual minimum income guarantee claimants.
3. Figures on employment and support allowance claimants with a severe disability premium are not centrally collated.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (Income Support, Pension Credit) and 5% sample (Jobseeker's Allowance).

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of reassessing each person of working age who is in receipt of disability living allowance. [58229]

Maria Miller *[holding answer 8 June 2011]:* The cost of administering personal independence payment will depend on the detail of how the benefit is delivered and the design of the new assessment. Costs will be refined as further detail on the reform is developed. Approximate high level delivery costs (both one off investment and DEL) have been estimated to be £675 million (net present value) over the period 2011-12 to 2015-16. These include provision for making changes to the IT systems, training DWP staff, the administrative effort required to manage the transition of existing recipients to the new system and the cost of trained independent assessors undertaking the new assessment.

Costs will be refined as further detail on the reform is developed. The Government will set out further detail at the earliest appropriate point.

Housing Benefit: Foster Care

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether a foster child is to be allocated a bedroom on the same basis as any other child in the calculation of the appropriate maximum housing benefit. [59162]

Steve Webb: Current policy is to not treat foster children as members of the foster carer's household in the calculation of the appropriate maximum housing benefit. This is consistent with the current treatment of foster children in housing benefit assessments for those living in the private rented sector. However, the Government disregards the whole of the foster carer allowance that is given to the foster parents when assessing eligibility for all income related benefits; this balance leaves the majority of households who foster substantially better off.

Discretionary housing payments can be paid by the local authority, if considered appropriate, based on the individual circumstances of the case.

Housing Benefit: Liverpool

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Liverpool will have their benefit reduced as a result of the extension of the shared accommodation rate of housing benefit to single people aged under 35 years; and what assessment he has made of the availability of shared accommodation in *(a)* Walton and *(b)* other areas of Liverpool. [57704]

Steve Webb: Based on analysis of the local housing allowance caseload in March 2010, it is estimated that 1,450 claimants in Liverpool would have their rate of local housing allowance reduced to the shared accommodation rate.

No assessment has been made of the availability of shared accommodation in Walton or other areas of Liverpool. This will depend on the responses of claimants and landlords to the reduced local housing allowance entitlement.

Source:
Equality impact assessment of the increase to the shared accommodation rate age threshold, available on the DWP website at
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-hb-shared-accommodation-age-threshold.pdf

Jobcentre Plus: Bexley

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints have been received by each Jobcentre Plus in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last 12 months. [59164]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many complaints have been received by each Jobcentre Plus in the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last 12 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There is only one Jobcentre Plus office in the London Borough of Bexley, and that is Bexleyheath Jobcentre Plus.

The figures included in the table below represent all complaints made by, or relating to, a Bexleyheath Jobcentre customer. This includes complaints received at any point of the Jobcentre Plus complaints process, including at the Jobcentre, at District Office and those received by senior officials and Ministers.

Complaints received by Bexleyheath Jobcentre over the last 12 months

Month complaints received	*Number of complaints*
June 2010	17
July 2010	27
August 2010	19
September 2010	22
October 2010	17
November 2010	15
December 2010	13
January 2011	13

Complaints received by Bexleyheath Jobcentre over the last 12 months

Month complaints received	*Number of complaints*
February 2011	24
March 2011	25
April 2011	23
May 2011	28
Total	243

Jobseeker's Allowance: Barnsley

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance in Barnsley East constituency who *(a)* have been affected by his Department's changes to entitlement to mortgage interest payments and *(b)* will be affected in the 12 months following the change. [58137]

Steve Webb: The standard interest rate which is used to calculate support for mortgage interest was changed to 3.63% from 1 October 2010. This change affects the entire support for mortgage interest caseload.

(a) Number of JSA claimants receiving mortgage interest at November 2010: The number of JSA claimants receiving Mortgage Interest is based on 5% sample data; figures less than 500 are subject to a high degree of sample variation and should be used only as a guide. In Barnsley East the number is "nil or negligible"—as sample data are rounded to the nearest 100 this means that the derived figure is "less than 50" and so subject to large sample variation.

(b) The information is not available: DWP only forecasts claimant numbers for Great Britain, and not at devolved administration or regional level.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to the letter of 9 May 2011 from the hon. Member for Walsall North concerning a constituent. [58842]

Chris Grayling: As the matters raised were operational, a reply was sent to the hon. Member by the Customer Services Director of the Pension Disability and Carers Service on behalf of the Secretary of State on 8 June 2011.

Unemployment

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce the level of *(a)* long-term and *(b)* youth unemployment. [58923]

Maria Miller: We are tackling these issues through a range of initiatives.

The Work programme will be the single biggest payment by results employment programme the United Kingdom has ever seen, providing personalised support to an expected 2.4 million claimants over the next five years helping individuals find and sustain employment.

Work programme providers will not be required to deliver centrally specified support, which may be inappropriate for many claimants, but instead will be given the freedom to innovate and develop personalised support. In return for this freedom, they will be paid on the basis of the results they achieve.

In addition to this, the support Jobcentre Plus advisers have available to offer is being bolstered with a series of Get Britain Working measures. Government are asking for the active engagement of employers, partners and claimants themselves in every community in Britain.

From April 2011 we have put in place a much more flexible and personalised approach to the way Jobcentre Plus delivers to claimants. Jobcentre Plus managers and advisers will have far more flexibility to judge which interventions will help their claimants, tailored to personal and local labour market needs.

To help support young people, in this year's Budget the Chancellor announced funding for up to 100,000 work experience placements over the next two years as part of our support for moving young people into the world of work and providing them with the experience that employers tell us is really important. We are also funding up to 40,000 additional apprenticeship places for young unemployed people over the life of this Parliament and plan to introduce an extension to work experience placements where employers want to offer a young person an apprenticeship which will help smooth the transition for both the employer and the young person.

The Prime Minister recently announced an enhanced £60 million package of support including a £30 million Innovation Fund, provision of early access Work programme places for vulnerable 18 year olds, and additional support for 16 and 17 year old jobseeker's allowance claimants.

We have also announced measures to improve and support vocational training including sector-based work academies and access to apprenticeships for vulnerable young people.

EDUCATION

16-19 Bursary Fund

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he expects local authorities to supply learning providers with data on incoming students who will qualify for assistance under the 16 to 19 Bursary Scheme. [57554]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 7 June 2011]:* The Department will not require local authorities to supply data to education and learning providers in respect of young people's eligibility for the new 16-19 Bursary Fund. We will provide guidance to schools, colleges and training providers regarding the kind of evidence they might wish to seek from young people claiming a guaranteed £1,200 bursary. Beyond that, schools, colleges and training providers will be able to exercise their discretion to award bursaries to young people—including those who were in receipt of free school meals in year 11—in ways that best fit their needs and circumstances.

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects learning providers to receive their funding allocation under the 16 to 19 Bursary Scheme for the 2011-12 academic year. [57555]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 7 June 2011]:* Details of the allocations for the 16-19 Bursary Fund are being finalised following the consultation on the new arrangements, which closed on 20 May. The Young People's Learning Agency will issue allocations to schools, colleges and training providers in June.

Arts: Education

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of *(a)* art, *(b)* music, *(c)* drama and *(d)* design and technology in the school curriculum to the wider academic development of five to 16-year-olds. [57647]

Mr Gibb: We expect schools to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which meets the needs of their pupils and in particular, we said in our Schools White Paper that children should expect to be given a rich menu of cultural experiences. Darren Henley is currently undertaking an independent review of cultural education, which is expected to report at the end of this year.

A thorough review of the national curriculum is also under way, which aims to develop a national curriculum which is rigorous and results in high standards and coherence in what is taught in schools. As part of the review, consideration will be given to whether art and design, music and design and technology should remain compulsory subjects within the national curriculum and, if so, at which key stages. Drama is not currently a statutory national curriculum subject, though pupils are expected to be able to use dramatic techniques to make progress in English.

We will be announcing our proposals early next year.

Curriculum Review

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure that design and technology is prioritised in his Department's curriculum review. [57924]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 June 2011]*: We are taking a phased approach to the review of the national curriculum. We have announced that the statutory core subjects—English, mathematics and science—will remain compulsory at all four key stages in future, along with physical education. In the first phase of the review we are designing new programmes of study for those subjects, with a view to first teaching in schools from September 2013.

For all other subjects, including design and technology, we believe it is right that there should be a debate about whether they should remain part of the national curriculum, with statutory programmes of study, or whether it should be for schools to decide the content of their courses in those subjects as well as the way they should be taught. We have recently concluded a call for evidence on this and other issues and are currently analysing the results, along with a range of other evidence. We will announce our proposals early next year, and there will then be a further period of consultation before final decisions are taken.

History: GCSE

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information he holds on the *(a)* name and *(b)* constituency of each school which took part in the OCR GCSE History pilot course. [57165]

Mr Gibb: 101 schools across 63 constituencies took part in the OCR GCSE History pilot course. The name and constituency of each school is shown in the following table:

School name	*Constituency*
Beal High School	Ilford North
Saltley School and Specialist Science College	Birmingham, Hodge Hill
Handsworth Wood Girls' Visual and Performing Arts Specialist College and Sixth Form Centre	Birmingham, Perry Barr
Plantsbrook School	Sutton Coldfield
Handsworth Grammar School	Birmingham, Perry Barr
King Edward VI Handsworth School	Birmingham, Perry Barr
King Edward VI Five Ways School	Birmingham, Edgbaston
Sandwell Academy	Warley
Grace Academy Solihull	Meriden
CTC Kingshurst Academy	Meriden
Blue Coat Church of England Comprehensive School A Performing Arts Specialist College	Walsall South
Queen Mary's Grammar School	Walsall South
Aldridge School—A Science College	Aldridge-Brownhills
Highfields Science Specialist School	Wolverhampton South West
St Peter's Collegiate Church of England School	Wolverhampton South West
Wolverhampton Girls' High School	Wolverhampton South West
Aire Valley School	Shipley
Bradford Grammar School	Bradford West
Dixons City Academy	Bradford East
Bradford Academy	Bradford East
Holmfirth High School	Colne Valley
Shelley College—A Specialist Centre for Science	Dewsbury
John Smeaton Community College	Leeds East
Benton Park School	Pudsey
Crawshaw School	Pudsey
Guiseley School	Pudsey
Horsforth School	Pudsey
St Mary's Catholic Comprehensive School, Menston	Pudsey
Crofton High School—Specialists in Maths and Computing	Hemsworth
Featherstone Technology College	Hemsworth
St Wilfrid's Catholic High School and Sixth Form College	Hemsworth
Lord Lawson of Beamish Community School	Blaydon
Cardinal Hume Catholic School	Gateshead
Oxclose Community School	Washington and Sunderland West
St Aidan's Catholic School	Sunderland Central
St Robert of Newminster Roman Catholic School	Washington and Sunderland West
Harrogate Grammar School	Harrogate and Knaresborough
St Aidan's Church of England High School	Harrogate and Knaresborough
Challney High School for Boys and Community College	Luton North
Harlington Upper School	Bedfordshire, Mid
Ilkeston School: Specialist Arts College	Erewash
Kirk Hallam Community Technology and Sports College	Erewash
Highfields School	Derbyshire Dales
Heanor Gate Science College	Amber Valley
Noel-Baker Community School and Language College	Derby South
Framwellgate School Durham	City of Durham

School name	*Constituency*
Durham Gilesgate Sports College and Sixth Form Centre	City of Durham
Paget High School, Business and Enterprise College	Burton
King Edward VI School	Lichfield
Wolgarston High School	Stafford
Ounsdale High School	Staffordshire South
The Friary School	Lichfield
Cheslyn Hay Sport and Community High School	Staffordshire South
Blessed William Howard Catholic School	Stafford
St John Fisher Catholic College	Newcastle-under-Lyme
Edensor Technology College	Stoke-on-Trent South
Tiverton High School	Tiverton and Honiton
Ridgeway School	South West Devon
Devonport High School for Boys	Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport
Torquay Girls Grammar School	Torbay
Torquay Community College	Torbay
Westlands School	Torbay
St Cuthbert Mayne School	Torbay
Torquay Boys' Grammar School	Torbay
Alec Hunter Humanities College	Braintree
The Deanes School	Castle Point
William de Ferrers School	Maldon
The Sandon School	Maldon
Maltings Academy	Witham
South Bromsgrove Community High School	Bromsgrove
Wolverley CofE Secondary School	Wyre Forest
Colne Primet High School	Pendle
Southlands High School	Chorley
Clitheroe Royal Grammar School	Ribble Valley
Ashfield Comprehensive School	Ashfield
The Meden School and Technology College	Mansfield
Valley Comprehensive School	Bassetlaw
Portland School	Bassetlaw
The Grove School	Newark
Joseph Whitaker School	Sherwood
The Holgate Comprehensive School	Sherwood
All Saints RC Comprehensive School	Mansfield
Farnborough School Technology College	Nottingham South
Sir James Smith's Community School	North Cornwall
Torpoint Community College	South East Cornwall
Fowey Community College	St Austell and Newquay
Budehaven Community School	North Cornwall
Wadebridge School	North Cornwall
Bodmin College	North Cornwall
Newquay Tretherras School	St Austell and Newquay
Liskeard School and Community College	South East Cornwall
Looe Community School	South East Cornwall
Barclay School	Stevenage
The Nobel School	Stevenage
The Thomas Alleyne School	Stevenage
Tring School	South West Hertfordshire
The John Henry Newman Catholic School	Stevenage
Education and Youth Services (Herts)	Stevenage
Caroline Chisholm School	South Northamptonshire
Mildenhall College of Technology	West Suffolk
George Abbot School	Guildford

Pupils: Assessments

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Common Assessment Framework; and if he will make a statement. [57998]

Mr Gibb: It is for local authorities to assess the effectiveness of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process in their area, and to adapt the CAF process to meet local needs to support better outcomes for children, young people and their families.

There are no plans to make a statement on the Common Assessment Framework at this time.

Road Safety

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has for road safety campaigns in schools in 2011-12. [52303]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education has no plans for road safety campaigns in schools. A wealth of road safety material is available from other governmental, and non-governmental, organisations.

The Department for Transport's Strategic Framework for Road Safety is under development and is planned to be published in the near future. The Department for Transport (DFT) has issued THINK! Education, a comprehensive set of free online road safety teaching resources that cover ages 4-16, available to all schools, to ensure that they have good quality materials that they will want to teach. It includes materials for teachers, pupils and parents and can also be used by out of school groups. It covers all aspects of road safety, from car seats for young children to pre-driver attitudes for secondary schools. It is available at

www.dft.gov.uk/think/education/early-years-and-primary/

and

www.dft.gov.uk/think/education/secondary

Resources for road safety education, supplied with support from the DFT, and complementary to the DFT material, are also available from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) at

http://www.rospa.com/roadsafety/resources/teachers/

RoSPA, the DFT and local road safety practitioners have worked together to produce a website,

www.roadsafetyevaluation.com

and an online toolkit called E-valu-it to help practitioners to evaluate road safety education, training and publicity interventions; to help ensure that limited resources are used to the best effect; and to share lessons about what education interventions work best, why and how. Directgov also carries road safety advice at

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/AdvancedSearch/Searchresults/index.htm?fullText=road+safety

School Leaving

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the adequacy of system to provide routes back into education for those who leave formal education at 16. [58157]

Mr Gibb: The Government are providing sufficient funding to pay for a place in education for any 16 to 18-year-old who wants one and all local authorities are expected to have a process to offer 17-year-olds a suitable place in education or training by the end of September. This process, which has been known as the ?September Guarantee', aims to ensure that all those who left education at 16 have a further opportunity to engage. 93.7% of 16-year-olds and 85.2% of 17-year-olds participated in education or work based education and training at the end of 2009.

We recognise that the small group of young people who are not participating need additional support to do so. We are committed to raising the age at which all young people will participate in education or training to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015. Local authorities have a statutory duty to support young people to participate, including providing targeted support to vulnerable young people. We are providing funding for this through the Early Intervention Grant.

We know that pupils who do not achieve good GCSEs are more likely to leave education at 16. We set out, alongside our plans to accept all of Alison Wolf's recommendations on vocational education, plans to review provision for these pupils, with the aim of increasing the proportion who are able to progress directly onto post-16 courses that will equip them with the skills that employers value. This review will build upon the findings of an independent evaluation of Foundation Learning, which already provides a route back into formal education for many young people.

Young people all have individual needs and we want to ensure that local areas have the freedom and flexibility to meet these. We have commissioned 35 local authorities to explore new approaches to achieving full participation in their areas. This is intended to be a locally-led programme where the areas can share their findings with each other, and with authorities in areas that are doing less well, so that they can develop and build on each others' work.

Schools

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of extremism in schools. [55948]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 May 2011]:* The Government are clear that there should be no place for extremist activities in any school. That is why the Secretary of State for Education has established a dedicated unit within the Department for Education focusing specifically on preventing extremism.

The unit will focus on safeguards such as strengthening inspection arrangements. The Department for Education is working with Ofsted to ensure that inspectors have the necessary knowledge and expertise to determine whether extremist and intolerant beliefs are being promoted in a school. New arrangements for inspecting maintained schools, Academies and Free Schools are being developed and relevant training on aspects of pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development will be provided to inspectors. Specialist inspectors that undertake work relating to independent schools are soon to receive more detailed training. We are sending a clear message that extremism will not be tolerated in schools.

The full range of the unit's work will be set out in the Government's 'Prevent' strategy, the preventative strand of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST.

Prevent is currently under review and the new strategy will be published shortly.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Human Rights

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on allegations of human rights abuses in Burma; and if he will make a statement. [58568]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government regularly receives reports of human rights abuses from groups inside Burma, as well as those in exile and lobby groups in the UK. Recent reports have in particular focused on alleged human rights violations against civilians as a result of an escalation of conflict in Shan State. We have made clear that we are deeply concerned by these reports, that we are monitoring the situation closely and that we have raised the issue with the Burmese Government and Burmese ambassador. More widely, the Government secured a strongly-worded human rights resolution at the March UN Human Rights Council which called on the Burmese Government to end continuing grave violations of international humanitarian law. Burma remains one of the Government's countries of concern for human rights abuses and we will continue to provide quarterly updates to Parliament on the human rights situation through the FCO Human Rights and Democracy Report:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/global-issues/human-rights/around-the-world/human-rights-report/

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take further steps to address the human rights situation in Burma and promote the establishment of a UN Commission of Inquiry into that matter; and if he will make a statement. [58699]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government have made clear our support for the UN Special Rapporteur's recommendation for the UN to consider establishing a Commission of Inquiry into human rights abuses in Burma. At the March Human Rights Council we helped secure text which expressed serious concern that previous calls to end impunity have not been heeded and called on the Burmese Government to undertake without delay an impartial and independent investigation into all human rights violations and with appropriate attention from the UN. In recent weeks we have discussed the issue of a Commission of Inquiry with United States of America and French officials and held discussions with EU counterparts on 9 March 2011. We continue to work closely with international partners to build support for a Commission of Inquiry.

Burma: Politics and Government

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of Burma for the introduction of a nationwide ceasefire in that country. [58255]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are deeply concerned by the reported breakdown of ceasefire agreements with ethnic militia and by reports of an escalation in conflict especially in Shan State and associated reported serious human rights abuses against civilians. Our ambassador raised the issue of the ongoing conflict with ethnic groups with the Burmese Government on 10 May 2011 underlining the importance of a political solution. On 5 May 2011, Senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials also raised this issue with the Burmese ambassador. We will continue to monitor the situation and urge the Burmese Government to reinstate ceasefire agreements with a view to a lasting political settlement.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on encouraging tripartite dialogue between the Burmese government, the National League for Democracy and representatives of ethnic minorities in Burma. [58256]

Mr Jeremy Browne: An inclusive dialogue between all Burma's opposition and ethnic groups that leads to a genuine process of national reconciliation remains one of the international community's long-standing demands. We are clear that only through such a process can Burma achieve peace and stability. The Government continue to support the UN Secretary-General's Good Offices Mission to this end, and have made clear the importance we attach to the appointment of a credible new envoy able to reinvigorate the political track.

Egypt: Females

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any of the £40 million in the Arab Partnership Fund announced for political reform is to be used to support women's organisations in Egypt. [59084]

Mr Jeremy Browne: As part of our £1.2 million Arab Partnership Programme to support the immediate political transition in Egypt, we are considering developing a project with a local NGO to encourage women's participation in the political sphere. The project aims to provide women participants with the skills and practical support to organize successful campaigns and promote human and women's rights within their communities.

We are also sponsoring a visit to the UK for prominent revolutionary youth activists of both sexes, who are attempting to establish their own political parties and coalitions. The visit aims to expose the activists to British political life, providing them with a model for developing their nascent parties and skills to prepare for electoral campaigns.

Indonesia: Embassies

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the British embassy in Indonesia was closed on 13 May 2011. [59115]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The main British embassy building in Jakarta has been closed since 13 May 2011. We closed the embassy on 13 May 2011 on account of security concerns arising from the unauthorised actions of one of our neighbours, who disabled several security barriers and consequently left the embassy at risk of attack. We have had no choice but to close the embassy in order to protect our staff from the risks that working at an insufficiently secure embassy building in Jakarta would entail. We have registered our serious concern with the Indonesians authorities and have been working extremely hard with them to reach a solution whereby security is restored at the embassy. We cannot compromise the safety and security of our British and Indonesian staff. Our embassy will remain closed until we and our Indonesian counterparts reach and implement a viable solution.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, has discussed this issue with Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa on 20 May 2011, and I raised it again when I met him at the Asia Europe meeting in Budapest on 7 June 2011. Senior officials at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have also raised the seriousness of this situation with the Indonesian ambassador, most recently on 6 June.

Our embassy is continuing to provide essential services to British nationals and businesses from secure fall-back locations but these do not offer a viable long-term alternative. However, the unfortunate and unexpectedly prolonged closure of the main building is having a damaging impact on the embassy's work, and the services we can offer UK business, British citizens and our Indonesian partners. Normal services will be resumed as soon as it is safe for staff to move back into the main embassy building.

Palestinians: Housing

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on the demolition of houses in Area C of the West Bank; [58932]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Palestinian Authority and *(b)* his Israeli counterpart on the effects of restrictions on planning, construction, movement and access in Area C of the West Bank on Palestinians living in that area; [58933]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects of Israeli restrictions on planning, construction, movement and access on Palestinians living in Area C of the West Bank; and if he will make a statement. [59006]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are concerned by a sharp increase in the level of demolitions in East Jerusalem and Area C. The embassy in Tel Aviv raises the issue of demolitions regularly with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, most recently in the case of Al Walaja on 23 May.

The focus between the Israelis and the Palestinians should be on confidence-building steps with the aim of giving momentum to re-start negotiations. In this respect, house demolitions or the eviction of Palestinians from their homes are deeply unhelpful and cause unnecessary suffering to (ordinary) Palestinians.

We continue to contribute towards the ongoing work of the International Peace and Cooperation Centre in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, which helps Palestinians better understand and effectively use the Israeli planning laws to prevent houses from being subject to (a) demolition orders in East Jerusalem and Area C and to help integrate planning in Area C with Areas A and B. The project also helps to facilitate the provision of better living and housing conditions in East Jerusalem neighbourhoods through planning and zoning.

Republic of Ireland: Roman Catholic Church

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Vatican on the time taken to publish the Roman Catholic church's full report into sex abuse in Ireland commissioned in March 2010. [59167]

Mr Lidington: The Holy See and the Roman Catholic Church have made clear their condemnation of child abuse, and that they must learn vital lessons to prevent it happening again. An exercise was launched by the Holy See in March 2010 to support the spiritual renewal of the Catholic Church in Ireland and to examine the effectiveness of its present processes in responding to cases of abuse and assistance provided to victims of abuse. A Holy See communiqué of 6 June said that the first phase of the Apostolic Visitation had been concluded and that an account of the results of the Visitation will published by early 2012.

We await the conclusions of the Visitation, but we do not judge that it would be helpful or appropriate for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to press the Holy See on the timing of their publication given that a clear timeframe has been set out.

Russia: Homosexuality

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will make representations to the government of Russia in relation to steps taken against people seeking to demonstrate for gay equality in Moscow on 28 May 2011. [58525]

(2) if he will make representations to the government of Russia about the recent decision on a permit for Moscow Gay Pride for a rally for gay equality. [58526]

Mr Lidington: We have expressed serious concern to the Russian Government over its banning of Gay Pride rallies in Moscow, along with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) and freedom of assembly issues more widely. We have repeatedly called, and will continue to call, on the Russian Government to respect the rights of individuals to peaceful assembly.

At our annual bilateral human rights consultations in January 2011, we called on Russia to respect the right to freedom of assembly of all individuals, including those protesting for the rights of LGBT people. We also work with EU partners to address the issue. In advance of the 28 May 2011 rally, EU officials discussed our concerns with a Russian delegation in Brussels. Representatives of EU embassies conducted monitoring of the rally.

Zimbabwe: Foreign Relations

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the aims and objectives of his policy on Zimbabwe are; and if he will make a statement. [58879]

Mr Bellingham: Our aim is to support the aspirations of the Zimbabwean people for a peaceful, prosperous and democratic Zimbabwe. We will continue to work with reformers in Zimbabwe and the wider region to maximise the prospects of achieving the reforms needed for properly conducted elections.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Members: Correspondence

Ms Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Doncaster Central of 23 December 2010 on the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. [58257]

Nick Herbert: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 9 June 2011.

Violent and Sex Offender Register

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made on its review of the sex offender register; when the report of that review will be published; and if she will make a statement. [59008]

James Brokenshire: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, set out plans for two key developments relating to the notification requirements for registered sex offenders (commonly referred to as the Sex Offenders' register) in her statement to the House on 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 959.

She indicated that we would shortly bring forward proposals to implement the ruling of the Supreme Court in F and Thompson, in order to ensure that strict rules are put in place for considering whether sex offenders who are placed on the register for life should ever be removed. She also outlined plans to consult on proposals to further strengthen the management of sex offenders.

We will shortly launch a targeted consultation seeking views on four key proposals to strengthen the notification requirements for registered sex offenders. The consultation will run for an eight week period.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made in making it compulsory for persons on the sex offender register to report to the authorities their intention to travel abroad for periods of one day or more; and if she will make a statement. [59009]

James Brokenshire: In the statement to the House by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 959, she indicated that we would be consulting on proposals to further strengthen the management of sex offenders.

We will shortly launch a targeted consultation seeking views on four key proposals to strengthen the notification requirements for registered sex offenders, including introducing a requirement for registered sex offenders to notify all foreign travel (currently only travel of three days or more is notified to the police). The consultation will run for an eight week period.

JUSTICE

Courts: Fees and Charges

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 559W, on courts: fees and charges, if he will bring forward proposals to extend the deadline for the provision of evidence to support an application for fee remission. [58396]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service are not aware that providing evidence within five days creates a problem to either the applicant who has to provide the court with evidence in support of their remission application or to the Departments who are responsible for providing the applicant with copies of the appropriate benefit entitlement notices. As a result there are no plans to extend the deadline for the provision of evidence.

In particular, the Department for Work and Pensions has confirmed that:

> "anyone in receipt of a relevant benefit may ask Jobcentre Plus, for working-age benefits, or the Pension, Disability and Carers Service, for pension credit, for a proof of entitlement letter. Upon receiving such a request, the relevant agency will issue a written notice of entitlement on the same day".

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on retaining recoverability of *(a)* success fees and *(b)* after-the-event premiums for litigation related to (i) insolvency, (ii) professional negligence and (iii) large multi-track environmental or corporate negligence cases. [59163]

Mr Djanogly: As set out in "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: The Government Response", the Government have decided to abolish recoverability of conditional fee agreement success fees and after the event insurance premiums.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what submissions his Department has received from HM Revenue and Customs on his planned reforms of civil litigation costs and funding; and if he will make a statement. [59175]

Mr Djanogly: HM Revenue and Customs provided a submission during the consultation period on the proposals to reform civil litigation funding and costs. My officials are in contact with officials at HMRC to discuss the impact of the reforms on insolvency proceedings.

Judges: Housing

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of providing judges' lodgings in the latest period for which figures are available. [58360]

Mr Djanogly: In 2009-10, the latest period for which data are available, the cost of providing judges' lodgings in England and Wales was £4.9 million.

Magistrates

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates have *(a)* retired and *(b)* resigned (i) nationally and (ii) in West Yorkshire since his recent announcement of decisions to close magistrates' courts. [58350]

Mr Djanogly: The Government published their decisions on the provision of court services in North and West Yorkshire on 14 December 2010. The number of magistrates who have retired and resigned since that date is as follows:

Retirements

359 magistrates have retired in England and Wales. This includes 14 magistrates in West Yorkshire.

Resignations

487 magistrates have resigned in England and Wales. This includes 26 magistrates in West Yorkshire.

The number of resignations from the magistracy during the period 14 December 2010 to 8 June 2011 (487) is slightly higher than for the same period in 2009-10 (414). There is no evidence to suggest that this increase is related to court closures.

Open Prisons

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many available spaces there are on the open prison estate. [59165]

Mr Blunt: The latest published data (from 15 April 2011) show that there were 4,683 prisoners held in open prisons and that these prisons had an operational capacity of 4,871.

This information is for all open prisons. This includes open female prisons, open young offender institutions and the relevant open parts of multi-site establishments; it does not include data for semi-open prisons or small (under 50 place) open units at closed prisons.

Prison Accommodation

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many category D prisoners are in higher security prisons awaiting transfer to an open prison and how many such prisoners have been waiting *(a)* less than two weeks, *(b)* between two and four weeks, *(c)* between five and eight weeks, *(d)* between nine and 12 weeks, *(e)* between 13 and 24 weeks and *(f)* longer than 24 weeks for a transfer. [59166]

Mr Blunt: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost as it would be necessary to contact every prison with closed accommodation who would then have to consult individual records.

Prisoners' Release

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people released from prison in England and Wales following a determinate sentence during 2009 and 2010 were subsequently on licence. [59081]

Mr Blunt: All offenders aged 18 and over serving a determinate custodial sentence of 12 months or more are released from prison on licence. Offenders aged 18 to 21 who are subject to a custodial sentence of less than 12 months are subject to a minimum period of three months supervision on licence following release from custody. Additionally, all offenders aged under 18 who are given a custodial sentence of any length are subject to supervision in the community on release from custody.

The number of offenders released from determinate custodial sentences in prison establishments in England and Wales and subject to supervision in the community was 44,700 in 2009 and 49,312 in 2010.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to reduce the number of foreign national prisoners in prisons in England and Wales. [58375]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice and the Home Office are working closely together to reduce the number of foreign national prisoners (FNPs) who are in our prisons.

This work includes the progression of plans outlined in the Ministry of Justice's Green Paper which will allow for conditional cautions to be available as an alternative to prosecution for some foreign national offenders with the condition being that the individual leaves the UK (we are already piloting this approach with simple cautions) and plans to remove indeterminate sentenced/lifer FNPs at the point of expiry of their tariff.

A considerable amount of work aimed at reducing the FNP population is already under way. For example, we continue to operate an Early Removal Scheme under which FNPs serving a determinate sentence can be considered for deportation up to 270 days before they would otherwise be eligible for release.

In addition we are building on existing Prisoner Transfer Agreements which enable some foreign national prisoners to serve their sentence in the country of origin. The EU framework decision on prisoner transfer is due to enter into force in December of this year and this should provide for a steady increase in the number of EU nationals transferred to their own country.

The Ministry of Justice will continue to work with the Home Office to manage down overall FNP numbers and, where possible, divert foreign national offenders from the UK and our prison system.

Terrorism: Convictions

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many residents in the Probation-Approved Premises estate have been convicted of terrorist offences. [58407]

Mr Blunt: As at 31 May 2011, there were six offenders residing in Approved Premises who had been convicted of offences under terrorism legislation or of terrorism-related offences. This information has been obtained from the specialist team within the National Offender Management Service which has responsibility for working with the statutory agencies which are supervising convicted terrorists and terrorist-related offenders in local areas.

Approved Premises provide for enhanced supervision, particularly of high risk of harm offenders on release from custody. It would be much more difficult to provide that level of supervision, were such offenders to be dispersed into less suitable accommodation in the community on release from custody.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the ability of small and medium-sized enterprises to offer apprenticeships in the current economic climate. [57971]

Mr Hayes: Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy. High quality training opportunities like apprenticeships are key to supporting their growth and our economic success.

Many small businesses place great value on an apprenticeship and are prepared to invest in them. The National Employer Skills Survey (NESS) shows a national estimate of the proportion of apprentices employed by employer size.

These data are based on repeated surveys of up to 79,000 employers across all business sectors in England. Table 1 shows information from the published 2009 National Employer Skills Survey on the proportion of apprentices employed by the size of establishment, expressed as a percentage of all apprenticeships.

Table 1: Percentage of apprentices employed by establishment size (NESS 2009)

	Number of employees in establishment						
	2-4	*5-24*	*25-99*	*100-199*	*200-499*	*500+*	*Total*
Percentage apprentices employed	13	34	23	8	11	10	100

Figure 8.4, p.208 accessed on 6 June 2011 in:

https://ness.ukces.org.uk/NESS09/default.aspx

A number of steps have already been taken to further boost the number of apprenticeship places offered by small and medium sized employers, including:

Establishing the National Apprenticeship Service with 'end to end' responsibility for delivering apprenticeships in England including access to information, advice and guidance to employers through their website;

The introduction of apprenticeship vacancies to make it is easier for companies to advertise and recruit the right person;

> Expanding Group Training Association (GTAs) and apprenticeship Training Agency (ATAs) models to make it easier for small business take on apprentices; and
>
> Additional £75 million announced in the Budget to fund training and other support targeted at small and medium sized employers, particularly in industries such as advanced manufacturing, so that they can grow the number of people starting advanced and higher apprenticeships.

We also worked with a group of employers, as well as the CBI and Federation of Small Businesses, to look at the 'end to end' processes faced by employers training apprentices. We are now considering how we can make it easier for SMEs to employ apprentices and will report on this in the autumn.

Credit

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on accepting the recommendations of the Office of Fair Trading's review into the high-cost credit market; and if he will make a statement. [58529]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and HM Treasury are carrying out a joint review of consumer credit and personal insolvency that is looking at all aspects of the consumer credit lifecycle from the decision to take out a loan through the lifetime of the loan. The review has been considering a number of coalition commitments and provides a framework for us to consider how best to take forward the recommendations from the Office of Fair Trading review of the high cost credit market.

A call for evidence connected with the consumer credit review concluded in December and Government are considering the substantial number of submissions received. We expect to make an announcement on next steps before the summer recess.

Employment Protection

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what evidence his Department holds on the effects of employment protection legislation on *(a)* recruitment levels and *(b)* job creation. [58179]

Mr Davey: There has been a substantial amount of academic consideration of the relationship between employment protection legislation and recruitment levels and job creation both nationally and internationally.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in its Job Study Review of 2006 provided a summary of this evidence in its policy pamphlet 'Boosting Jobs and Income: Policy Lessons from Reassessing the OECD Jobs Strategy'. It concluded that:

> 'The link between the stance of employment protection legislation and aggregate unemployment is uncertain in theory, and in practice is dependent on the specific national context. However, there is evidence that too-strict legislation will hamper labour mobility, reduce the dynamic efficiency of the economy and restrain job creation. This may worsen job prospects of certain groups, like young people, women and the long-term unemployed.'

In addition, there is international evidence that the UK has one of the least restrictive systems of employment protection in the OECD. It also has one of the highest rates of recruitment; high employment rates of women, the young and older people; and low levels of long term unemployment. There is evidence that the employment regulation system in the UK has contributed to these favourable labour market outcomes.

Finally, there is evidence that the perceptions of the restrictiveness of employment legislation differ from the actual situation in the UK. Perceptions are that employment legislation is more restrictive than is actually the case.

In summary, there is evidence that the UK employment protection system compares favourably with many other countries in its effect on recruitment levels and job creation. However, OECD evidence also suggests that:

> 'the precise balance between the different policy planks depends on country circumstances and institutions'

which suggests that it may be possible to improve upon this position. Consequently, the Government are carrying out the Employment Law Review in order to see whether further improvements in employment and growth can be achieved.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many degree course places funded by *(a)* the Higher Education Funding Council for England and *(b)* other organisations there were in (i) higher education institutions and (ii) further education colleges in (A) 2009-10, (B) 2010-11 and (C) 2011-12; how many such courses in each category he estimates will be funded in 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [59176]

Mr Willetts: The table shows the number of headcount Foundation, Undergraduate and Postgraduate degree students funded *(a)* by HEFCE and *(b)* independently[1] in (i) Higher Education Institutions and (ii) Further Education Colleges in academic years (A) 2009/10 and (B) 2010/11.

[1] The institution receives enough resources from other sources (other than EL) public sources) for the year of instance to cover the HEFCE standard resource for its provision.

Funded Foundation, Undergraduate and Postgraduate degree students

			Headcount
		Academic year	
Funded by:		*(A) 2009/10*	*(B) 2010/11*
(a) HEFCE	(i) HEIs	1,300,636	1,301,121
	(ii) FECs	55,078	54,451
(b) Other organisations	(i) HEIs	3,428	4,018
	(ii) FECs	64	43

Sources:

1. Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)'s Higher Education Students Early Statistics Survey (HESES)
2. Higher Education In Further Education: Students Survey (HEIFES)

Figures for 2011/12 will be available in late December 2011. It is expected that the total number of fundable (i.e. HEFCE and independently funded) places on all courses in 2011/12 will be broadly similar to 2010/11.

Information about the number of courses in 2012/13 is not available; the Department does not plan for the number of courses available.

Intellectual Property: Africa

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the implementation of the recommendation of the Gowers Review on Intellectual Property that the UK Patent Office should undertake joint working with intellectual property offices in Africa. [58522]

Mr Davey: Since the publication of the Gower's review in 2006, the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) has undertaken a number of technical assistance projects in Africa. These include, in 2007 a project with Kenya and Botswana to implement a regulatory framework for access to medicines, working with IP offices and relevant ministries. In 2008, the UK hosted a visit from the then Companies and Intellectual Property Registration Office of South Africa on IT, HR and IP processes, and worked with the Nigerian Copyright Commission. With funding from DFID, SAANA Consulting was commissioned to follow up the IP Needs Assessment diagnostic study for Uganda with delivery and evaluation of the priority projects. In 2009 we organised a conference with African countries and China on enforcement, with the United States Patent Office.

In addition, we have provided funding to Light-years IP to help establish a series of projects in Sub-Saharan Africa designed to help African producers extract greater value from their products by maximising the value of their intellectual property. In February 2011, the IPO in partnership with the South African Research and Innovation Management Association, (SARIMA) undertook a project to build capacity in the commercialisation of intellectual property at South African Technology Transfer Offices.

Intellectual Property: Drugs

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage World Trade Organisation member states to ratify the amendments to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights to make importation of drugs easier and cheaper. [58523]

Mr Davey: The UK has regularly made clear its support for the Doha Declaration on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and public health, which agreed that:

> "the TRIPS Agreement does not and should not prevent members from taking measures to protect public health"

including allowing developing countries with insufficient or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector to use a compulsory licence to import medicines. The EU has ratified the amendments to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

Intellectual Property: Research

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the implementation of the recommendation of the Gowers Review of Intellectual Property relating to the amendment of section 60(5) of the Patents Act 1977 to clarify the research exception. [58520]

Mr Davey: The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) consulted further on this recommendation in 2008 and the areas of pharmaceuticals and plant breeders' rights were highlighted by respondents. Guidance on the research exception was included in the latest edition of the IP Management Handbook for Universities (Intellectual Assets Management for Universities) published on the 19 of May 2011.

The Government are considering further how the IP framework might be improved in relation to clinical trials with a view to presenting recommendations in the autumn as set out in the Growth Plan published with the budget in April 2011. As part of this process the IPO launched a consultation on 6 June 2011 to investigate the impact of UK patent legislation on the conduct of clinical and field trials involving pharmaceuticals in the UK.

Legal Systems: Islam

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many family law cases have been dealt with by Sharia tribunals under the Arbitration Act 1996 in each year since 1997. [58472]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 9 June 2011]:* The Muslim Arbitration Tribunals (MAT) was established in 2007 in order to provide an alternative route to resolve civil issues in accordance with Sharia principles. The MAT operates according to the principles of the Arbitration Act 1996. We do not have any data on family matters dealt with by these councils or the MAT. Sharia councils do not describe themselves as "tribunals" as they do not have powers to enforce their decisions.

Common law has restrictions on what can be arbitrated. Some family law issues such as the custody of a child or marital status cannot be arbitrated although some family financial issues can.

There are no specific provisions in the Arbitration Act 1996 for Sharia council or "tribunals".

Technology and Innovation Centres: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much is to be allocated from the Technology Strategy Board budget in 2011-12 to develop a national grants for research and development scheme; and if he will make a statement; [59093]

(2) how much money is to be allocated from the Technology Strategy Board budget for technology and innovation centres in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [59094]

Mr Willetts: The budgets allocated by the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) for its Grant for Research and Development (R and D) scheme and Technology and Innovation Centres in FY 2011/12 are in the order of £20 million and £45 million respectively. These are indicative allocations within the TSB's overall core budget of £317 million for 2011/12 and are flexible to permit TSB to direct funding across its range of support mechanisms to maximise the impact of its strategic programmes and respond to emerging priorities.

HEALTH

Blood and Transplant Service

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on plans to make parts of the National Health Service Blood and Transplant Service subject to competitive tendering. [58057]

Anne Milton: Discussions have been held between departmental and Scottish Government officials about the review into NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT).

The current review of NHSBT was a result of the conclusions of the "Report of the Arm's-length Bodies Review" published in July 2010. The review is intended to assist NHSBT in further improving the efficiency of its operations and is consistent with Government policy to explore opportunities to increase efficiency.

Blood: CJD

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1273W, on blood transfusions, whether the dates for the timetabling of the prion filtered red blood cells in surgery and multi-transfused patients (PRISM) study have changed; and when he expects the final report to be completed; [59007]

(2) whether the eight-week antibody tests of the prion filtered red blood cells in surgery and multi-transfused patients (PRISM) study have been concluded. [59010]

Anne Milton: The timetable remains as set out in my reply of 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1273W. The final report will be completed by the end of December 2011, for consideration by the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissue and Organs in early 2012. I understand that the study in multi-transfused patients will no longer go ahead due to difficulties in recruiting sufficient patients to the study.

As of 3 June 2011, eight-week antibody samples continue to be received from surgical patients, as part of the prion filtered red cells in surgery and multi-transfused patients study. The samples are taken eight weeks after the patients receive the red cell units, and follow-up samples taken at six months.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the costs of the *(a)* development and *(b)* implementation of (i) prion filtration and (ii) a blood test for vCJD. [59011]

Anne Milton: With regard to prion filtration I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies) on 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 423W. Costs of development are borne by manufacturers.

With regard to blood tests no estimates have been made of the costs of the development and implementation of a blood test for variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) as there is currently no test proven to identify asymptomatic vCJD infection.

Health

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on health inequalities *(a)* in the North East and *(b)* nationally for each year since 1997. [58913]

Anne Milton: The information is shown in the tables.

Further information is available in the Regional Health Profile for the North East, and in local health profiles, which are produced annually by the Association of Public Health Observatories and commissioned by the Department. These profiles are available on the Association of Public Health Observatories website:

Regional Health Profile

www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=95362

Local Health Profile

www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=50215&REGION=50150&SPEAR

Table 1: Life expectancy at birth (years) by area deprivation quintile, England, 2001-04 and 2005-08

	Male		Female	
	2001-04	2005-08	2001-04	2005-08
Least deprived quintile	79.7	81.0	83.0	84.2
2nd least deprived quintile	78.3	79.7	82.1	83.1
3rd least deprived quintile	77.1	78.4	81.3	82.3
4th least deprived quintile	75.1	76.3	79.9	80.9
Most deprived quintile	71.9	73.0	77.8	78.6

Notes:

1. Figures are period life expectancies at birth.
2. Period life expectancy at birth for an area in a given time period is an estimate of the average number of years a new-born baby would survive if he or she experienced the particular area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout his or her life. It reflects contemporary mortality among those living in an area in each time period, rather than mortality that will be experienced throughout life among those born in the area, It is not therefore the number of years a baby born in the area could actually expect to live.
3. Figures are four-year averages, based on data aggregated over four-year time periods.
4. Area deprivation quintiles are derived by grouping lower layer super output areas (LSOAs) in England into quintiles based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 score for each LSOA. Each quintile contains approximately a fifth of LSOAs in England.

Source:

Office for National Statistics ("Inequalities in disability-free life expectancy by area deprivation, England 2001-04 and 2005-08", Olugbenga Olatunde, Michael Smith, Chris White. Health Statistics Quarterly, vol 48, pp 36-57)

Table 2a: Life expectancy (LE) at birth (years) for England, areas in England with the worst health and deprivation, the North East Region, and local authority (Unitary Authority (UA) and district council) areas in the North East, 1996-98 to 2007-09—Male

	1996-98	1997-99	1998-2000	1999-01	2000-02	2001-03	2002-04	2003-05	2004-06	2005-07	2006-08	2007-09
England	74.8	75.1	75.4	75.7	76.0	76.2	76.5	76.9	77.3	77.7	77.9	78.3
Areas with the worst health and deprivation	72.9	73.1	73.4	73.7	74.1	74.2	74.5	74.9	75.3	75.6	75.8	76.1

Table 2a: Life expectancy (LE) at birth (years) for England, areas in England with the worst health and deprivation, the North East Region, and local authority (Unitary Authority (UA) and district council) areas in the North East, 1996-98 to 2007-09—Male

	1996-98	*1997-99*	*1998-2000*	*1999-01*	*2000-02*	*2001-03*	*2002-04*	*2003-05*	*2004-06*	*2005-07*	*2006-08*	*2007-09*
Difference (England LE minus areas with the worst health and deprivation LE)	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2
North East region	73.2	73.5	73.9	74.3	74.5	74.7	74.9	75.4	75.8	76.3	76.4	76.8
Difference (England LE minus North East LE)	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5
Local authority areas in the North East region:												
County Durham UA	73.0	73.4	73.8	74.2	74.7	74.9	75.2	75.5	75.9	76.5	76.7	76.9
Darlington UA	73.4	73.5	73.9	74.3	74.5	74.8	74.7	75.2	75.1	76.3	76.3	76.6
Hartlepool UA	72.5	72.9	73.0	73.4	73.1	73.4	73.4	74.1	74.5	75.0	75.2	75.4
Middlesbrough UA	72.6	73.1	73.2	73.2	73.5	73.8	74.0	74.1	74.5	75.0	75.5	75.7
Northumberland UA	73.8	74.3	74.8	75.5	75.7	75.9	76.0	76.6	77.3	77.7	78.0	78.5
Redcar and Cleveland UA	73.4	73.7	74.2	74.9	75.1	75.1	74.9	75.2	76.0	76.7	77.2	77.7
Stockton-on-Tees UA	73.7	74.2	74.6	74.8	75.2	75.3	75.5	75.7	75.9	76.4	76.4	76.9
Gateshead	72.8	72.9	73.2	73.7	74.0	74.2	74.5	75.0	75.3	75.8	76.1	76.4
Newcastle upon Tyne	73.3	73.3	73.4	73.8	74.0	74.2	74.4	74.8	75.1	75.7	75.7	76.2
North Tyneside	73.4	74.1	74.5	75.2	75.1	75.2	75.0	75.7	76.2	76.7	76.6	76.8
South Tyneside	72.8	72.9	73.5	73.6	74.0	74.1	74.6	74.7	75.2	75.6	76.3	76.6
Sunderland	73.0	73.2	73.3	73.6	73.7	74.1	74.6	75.2	75.5	75.6	75.4	75.9

Table 2b: Life expectancy (LE) at birth (years) for England, areas in England with the worst health and deprivation, the North East Region, and local authority (Unitary Authority (UA) and district council) areas in the North East, 1996-98 to 2007-09—Female

	1996-98	*1997-99*	*1998-2000*	*1999-01*	*2000-02*	*2001-03*	*2002-04*	*2003-05*	*2004-06*	*2005-07*	*2006-08*	*2007-09*
England	79.8	80.0	80.2	80.4	80.7	80.7	80.9	81.1	81.6	81.8	82.0	82.3
Areas with the worst health and deprivation	78.4	78.5	78.7	78.9	79.2	79.2	79.4	79.6	79.9	80.2	80.4	80.7
Difference (England LE minus areas with the worst health and deprivation LE)	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6
North East region	78.4	78.5	78.7	79.1	79.3	79.5	79.6	79.8	80.1	80.4	80.6	80.9
Difference (England LE minus North East LE)	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4
Local authority areas in the North East region:												
County Durham UA	78.4	78.6	78.8	79.1	79.3	79.2	79.3	79.4	79.9	80.2	80.5	80.7
Darlington UA	79.2	79.4	79.0	78.9	79.1	79.6	79.9	80.0	80.0	80.4	80.5	80.8
Hartlepool UA	78.0	78.1	78.9	79.1	79.1	78.4	78.2	78.3	78.3	78.1	79.0	79.8
Middlesbrough UA	78.4	78.6	78.6	78.7	78.2	78.1	78.0	78.7	79.2	79.6	79.8	79.7
Northumberland UA	78.8	78.9	79.2	79.6	80.4	80.7	80.8	80.9	81.1	81.3	81.5	81.7
Redcar and Cleveland UA	79.4	79.2	79.2	79.1	79.5	79.6	80.1	80.3	80.5	80.8	81.0	81.7

Table 2b: Life expectancy (LE) at birth (years) for England, areas in England with the worst health and deprivation, the North East Region, and local authority (Unitary Authority (UA) and district council) areas in the North East, 1996-98 to 2007-09—Female

	1996-98	*1997-99*	*1998-2000*	*1999-01*	*2000-02*	*2001-03*	*2002-04*	*2003-05*	*2004-06*	*2005-07*	*2006-08*	*2007-09*
Stockton-on-Tees UA	78.4	78.5	78.9	79.3	79.7	79.7	79.9	80.0	80.2	80.8	80.9	81.2
Gateshead	77.8	77.9	78.1	78.4	78.8	79.2	79.4	79.5	79.9	80.4	80.5	80.6
Newcastle upon Tyne	78.0	78.4	78.6	79.4	79.4	79.6	79.8	80.1	80.3	80.5	80.5	81.0
North Tyneside	78.8	79.1	79.2	79.5	79.5	79.9	79.9	80.4	80.6	80.9	80.6	81.0
South Tyneside	78.5	78.4	78.6	79.5	79.5	79.8	79.4	79.9	80.1	80.5	80.3	80.8
Sunderland	78.0	77.9	77.9	78.2	78.7	78.9	79.0	79.4	79.8	80.2	80.4	80.7

Notes:

To tables 2a and 2b:

1. Figures are period life expectancies at birth.

2. Period life expectancy at birth for an area in a given time period is an estimate of the average number of years a new-born baby would survive if he or she experienced the particular area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout his or her life. It reflects contemporary mortality among those living in an area in each time period, rather than mortality that will be experienced throughout life among those born in the area. It is not therefore the number of years a baby born in the area could actually expect to live.

3. Figures are three-year rolling averages, based on data aggregated over three-year time periods.

4. All figures are shown rounded to one decimal place (figures for England and the areas with the worst health and deprivation are rounded to one decimal place based on published figures rounded to two decimal places). Difference between areas with the worst health and deprivation and the England average is calculated from life expectancy figures rounded to two decimal places; difference between North East and England is calculated from England figures to two decimal places and North East figures to one decimal place.

5. The areas with the worst health and deprivation were previously known as the "Spearhead Group", which was defined in 2004 for use with associated former Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets included in the 2004 spending review. The Government have abolished the PSA system. The former "Spearhead Group" consisted of the 70 local authority (Unitary Authority and district council) areas (based on boundaries prior to the 1 April 2009 local government re-organisation) that were in the bottom fifth nationally for three or more of the following five factors: male life expectancy at birth 1995-97; female life expectancy at birth 1995-97; cancer mortality rate in under 75s 1995-97; cardiovascular disease mortality rate in under 75s 1995-97; and Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (Local Authority Summary), average score.

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Health Services: North East

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors, *(b)* midwives, *(c)* specialist scientific staff, *(d)* nurses, *(e)* medical managers, *(f)* non-medical managers, *(g)* administrators and *(h)* healthcare assistants were employed in the North East in each year since 1990. [59005]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not available in the format requested. Information on the numbers of national health service staff in the North East Strategic Health Authority Area by main staff group, including doctors, midwives, specialist scientific staff, nurses, managers, administrators and healthcare assistants in each year since 1995 is shown in the following table.

Information cannot be provided from 1990 onwards, as comparable work force data are available only from 1995.

								Headcount[1]
	1995	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
All Doctors[2]	4,602	4,829	5,033	5,048	5,269	5,489	5,656	5,823
Medical and Dental staff[2]	3,124	3,359	3,548	3,542	3,749	3,953	4,053	4,178
General Practitioners (GPs) (ex retainers)[1]	1,478	1,470	1,485	1,506	1,520	1,536	1,603	1,645
Practice Nurses	890	827	807	954	1,002	881	942	1,031
All Non-medical Staff	49,279	51,112	51,249	51,523	53,706	55,718	58,537	60,357
Professionally qualified clinical staff	22,983	23,169	22,939	23,435	24,376	24,814	25,963	26,854
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	18,024	18,227	17,791	18,079	18,870	19,125	20,035	20,473
Of which:								
Midwives	1,342	1,234	1,224	1,141	1,088	1,083	1,276	1,241
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff (ST&T)	4,637	4,637	4,854	4,949	5,177	5,399	5,654	6,119
Qualified ambulance service staff	322	305	294	407	329	290	274	262
Support to clinical staff	15,356	16,387	17,230	17,766	18,533	19,430	20,747	21,045
Support to doctors and nursing staff	12,523	13,422	14,271	14,889	15,618	16,420	17,433	17,604

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Headcount[1] 2002
Of which:								
Healthcare Assistants	542	650	590	928	1,097	1,099	1,427	1,467
Support to ST&T staff	1,864	1,898	1,953	2,034	2,199	2,253	2,512	2,614
Of which:								
Healthcare Assistants	6	10	10	47	47	38	35	26
Support to ambulance staff	969	1,067	1,006	843	716	757	802	827
NHS infrastructure support[4]	10,689	10,667	10,951	10,277	10,767	11,437	11,783	12,433
Central functions	3,629	3,849	3,923	3,883	4,053	4,390	4,802	5,391
Hotel, property and estates	6,156	5,863	6,125	5,415	5,646	5,857	5,770	5,654
Managers and senior managers	904	955	903	979	1,068	1,190	1,211	1,388
Other staff or those with unknown classification	251	889	129	45	30	37	44	25

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Headcount[1] 2010[5]
All Doctors[2]	6,071	6,524	6,637	6,937	7,090	7,353	7,788	7,915
Medical and Dental staff[2]	4,330	4,699	4,764	4,942	5,145	5,367	5,686	5,820
General Practitioners (GPs) (ex retainers)[3]	1,741	1,825	1,873	1,995	1,945	1,986	2,102	2,071
Practice Nurses	1,117	1,124	1,064	1,167	1,123	1,099	1,224	1,097
All Non-medical Staff	61,901	65,034	66,193	65,681	64,172	66,714	69,067	69,338
Professionally qualified clinical staff	27,852	29,341	29,782	30,367	30,468	31,458	31,981	31,735
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	20,991	22,065	22,291	22,220	22,296	22,937	23,153	22,882
Of which:								
Midwives	1,205	1,277	1,274	1,276	1,288	1,331	1,382	1,297
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff (ST&T)	6,579	6,969	7,162	7,327	7,342	7,794	8,081	8,113
Qualified ambulance service staff	282	307	329	820	830	727	747	745
Support to clinical staff	22,163	22,637	22,892	22,318	20,739	21,796	22,786	23,722
Support to doctors and nursing staff	18,500	18,686	18,907	18,620	17,296	17,890	18,543	19,443
Of which:								
Healthcare Assistants	2,013	2,824	2,949	2,762	3,222	3,936	4,298	4,011
Support to ST&T staff	2,826	3,067	3,034	2,980	2,794	2,973	3,240	3,235
Of which:								
Healthcare Assistants	20	23	19	18	24	22	22	15
Support to ambulance staff	837	884	951	718	649	933	1,003	1,064
NHS infrastructure support[4]	11,852	13,026	13,491	12,971	12,951	13,446	14,294	13,999
Central functions	5,413	5,620	6,095	5,754	5,784	6,069	6,524	6,509
Hotel, property and estates	4,837	5,728	5,669	5,518	5,347	5,443	5,690	5,555
Managers and senior managers	1,602	1,678	1,727	1,699	1,820	1,934	2,080	1,943

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Headcount[1] 2010[1]
Other staff or those with unknown classification	34	30	28	25	14	14	6	5

[1] The new headcount methodology for 2010 data are not fully comparable with previous years data due to improvements that make them a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the "NHS Workforce: Summary of staff in the NHS: Results from September 2010 Census" publication which is available in the Library.

[2] Excludes medical Hospital Practitioners and medical Clinical Assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals.

[3] GP Retainers were first collected in 1999 and have been omitted for comparability purposes.

[4] NHS Infrastructure support staff includes administrative senior managers, managers, clerical staff, Human Resources, Finance, Information Technology, and other areas of work which do not involve patient contact.

Notes:

1. Comparable workforce data are only available from 1995.
2. 2010 Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components.
3. Medical and dental data as at 30 September each year.
4. GP data as at 1 October 1991-99 and 30 September 2000-10.
5. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where changes impact on figures already published, this is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Sources:

1. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care 2010 Non-Medical Workforce Census
2. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census
3. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

Health Services: Terrorism

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what analysis his Department has conducted on the ability of medical experts to *(a)* identify and *(b)* report those who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. [58936]

Mr Simon Burns: No separate analysis has been undertaken to measure a clinician's ability to identify or report those who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

Health professionals are not being asked to seek out or report individuals who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, but instead will raise any concerns internally with the Prevent Lead within their organisation. The Prevent programme in health raises awareness of this form of exploitation so that, during the normal course of clinical practice, a clinician or healthcare worker may recognise that a vulnerable individual is either being groomed or drawn into violent extremism, and is therefore knowledgeable in how to provide support. Safeguarding vulnerable individuals will ensure that appropriate actions and support mechanisms can be put in place to redirect them away from criminal activity. This process is undertaken with the consent of the patient.

Healthcare staff already have a duty to report concerns about abuse or exploitation of vulnerable adults and children. Raising concerns through Prevent will be no different.

As with any other therapeutic relationship that a healthcare worker has with a patient, it is key that the safeguarding processes already in place can be used, assisting clinicians to protect vulnerable adults and children from exploitation and harm by others.

Heart Diseases: Children

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) for what reason the documents associated with the Safe and Sustainable Review consultation were not translated into Urdu; [57284]

(2) for what reason the Safe and Sustainable Review did not take account of children's heart surgery services at Yorkhill hospital, Glasgow; [57285]

(3) what estimate was made in the NHS Safe and Sustainable Review of the number of patients who would travel from Yorkshire and Humber to *(a)* Liverpool under options A, B and C and *(b)* Leicester under option A instead of to Newcastle. [57286]

Mr Simon Burns: The Safe and Sustainable review of children's heart services in England is being conducted by the NHS Specialised Commissioning Team. However, we have been following its progress.

Translations of the consultation documents have been available on request. Acting on requests received, the national health service is translating the consultation document and response forms into 10 different languages. They are Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Farsi, Gujarati, Polish, Hindi, Punjabi, Somali and Urdu. These translated documents are available at:

www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/safeandsustainable/consultation_document

The NHS in England does not have responsibility for the commissioning of Scottish health services. This is a matter for Ministers of the Scottish Government. However, a representative of the commissioning body for the children's heart surgical service at Yorkhill hospital, the National Services Division, was present as an observer at Safe and Sustainable steering group meetings to identify any relevant cross-border issues.

Detail about the travel analysis is available in Appendix S, page 208 of the pre-business consultation case. This is available at:

www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/document/meeting-joint-committee-primary-care-trusts-jcpct-16th-february-2011-agenda

Netcare Healthcare UK

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he or officials of his Department have met representatives of *(a)* Netcare, *(b)* Network Healthcare Holdings Ltd and *(c)* General Healthcare Group since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [59090]

Mr Simon Burns: Ministers have not had meetings with these organisations. Officials at the Department have routine operational contact with General Healthcare Group as part of their involvement with the provision of services through the Extended Choice Network.

Representatives from the General Healthcare Group met with officials on 27 January 2011, 14 April 2011 and 6 June 2011.

Sickle Cell Diseases: Children

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospital sites in England provide access to transcranial doppler ultrasound assessment for children with sickle cell disease. [58274]

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure implementation of the NHS Standards and Guidance for Transcranial Doppler Scanning for children with sickle cell disease in *(a)* Ealing Primary Care Trust and *(b)* England. [58722]

Anne Milton: The Department does not collect information on services for transcranial doppler assessment of children with sickle cell.

The provision of services for transcranial doppler scanning of young children with sickle cell disease is the responsibility of commissioners of specialised services and providers.

The Department, working with key stakeholders, has supported a range of initiatives to improve access to quality services for sickle cell and thalassaemia patients. This includes supporting the development of transcranial doppler scanning services to provide early identification of sickle cell children at risk of stroke, and the training of health professionals.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to ensure suitable training for clinical staff in the theory, protocols and equipment used in transcranial doppler scanning for stroke on children with sickle cell disease. [58725]

Anne Milton: The content and standard of healthcare training is the responsibility of the independent regulatory bodies.

Through their role as the custodians of quality standards in education and practice, these organisations are committed to ensuring high quality patient care delivered by high quality health professionals and that healthcare professionals are equipped with the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to deal with the problems and conditions they will encounter in practice.

While it is not practicable or desirable for the Government to prescribe the exact training that any individual doctor will receive we are, of course, aware of the need to ensure perceived areas of weakness in training curricula are addressed. The Department has sponsored training courses for healthcare professionals for transcranial doppler (TCD) scanning carried out by Guy's and St Thomas' Foundation Trust and King's College Hospital Foundation Trust. In March 2009, the NHS Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Screening Programme published standards and guidelines for TCD scanning.

Social Services: Inspections

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many inspections were carried out by the Care Quality Commission or its predecessors in each year between 2000 and 2010; and how many have been carried out in 2011 to date. [58878]

Mr Simon Burns: The following information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The CQC has advised it cannot confirm the accuracy of data produced by the National Care Standards Commission and is therefore unable to supply data prior to 2004.

Completed inspections under the Care Standards Act 2000 and reviews of compliance under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 for regulated health and social care services[1]

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*[2]	*2007-08*[3]	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[4]	*1 April 2011 -7 June 2011*
Adult social care inspections (Care Standards Act 1 April 2004 - 30 September 2010)	48,062	47,341	26,676	19,059	15,072	11,477	4,094	—
Independent healthcare inspections (Care Standards Act 1 April 2007 - 30 September 2010)[5]	—	—	—	369	764	884	279	—
All sectors: reviews of compliance (Health and Social Care Act 1 April 2010 - 31 March 2011)[6]	—	—	—	—	—	—	986	1,359

[1] These data do not include activities under the Mental Health Act as visits under this Act are not formal assessments of the overall standard of care and treatment at a service.

[2] From 2006-07, there was a reduction in number of adult social care inspections due to changes in methodology, changes to statutory inspection plus a focus on poorer services.

[3] Further reduction in inspection numbers due to the transfer of children's services to Ofsted from 1 April 2007.

[4] During 2010-11 providers were moved from inspections under the Care Standards Act 2000 to reviews of compliance under Health and Social Care Act 2008, a more risk based approach to the frequency of inspections.

[5] Pre-2007 data not available.

[6] 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010 national health service data only. From 1 October 2010 data are reviews of compliance for NHS, independent healthcare and adult social care.

The CQC no longer carries out performance assessment of adult social care providers under the Care Standards Act 2000. From 1 October 2010 providers of adult social care are now subject to the requirements of the Health and Social Care Act 2008, which requires all health and social care providers to register with the CQC and meet essential requirements of safety and quality. The CQC is in the process of consulting on a new excellence award for adult social care, which will provide further information to people using services on the quality of care provided.

The CQC regulation is increasingly based on a wide spectrum of information covering hard data, observations made on the ground and patient experience.

The CQC has a risk-based approach to the frequency of its inspections of providers. Under the new system, the CQC can make short, focussed unannounced site visits with direct observations of care at any time. This lets the CQC see how care is being delivered at first hand and on an everyday basis.

Southern Cross Healthcare

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date his Department first discussed with Southern Cross the financial position of that company; and on what subsequent dates such meetings have been held. [59013]

Paul Burstow: Departmental officials first met with Southern Cross to discuss the matter on 14 March 2011. Subsequent meetings have taken place on 21 March, 6 April, 21 April, 19 May, 23 May, 6 June and 8 June 2011.

Regular contact has been maintained since March between departmental officials and Southern Cross as part of the careful watch we are keeping on the situation.

Strokes: Children

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve stroke services for children. [58721]

Anne Milton: The Department supports and promotes guidelines produced by the Royal College of Physicians which provides national health service professionals and others information and best practice guidance in managing the conditions of children who have suffered strokes.

Since a large proportion of strokes in children occur in those with sickle cell disease, we have implemented national antenatal and newborn screening including transcranial doppler scanning from age two, which can help detect the likelihood of strokes.

Also, a small number of newborn babies are vulnerable to strokes from intracranial bleeding and Vitamin K is routinely administered as a prophylaxis to prevent bleeding.

We have also published the National Framework for Children and Young People's Continuing Care, which will help with assessing the continuing health care needs of children and young people, including those children affected by stroke, and with considering the bespoke packages of care required to meet those needs.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanism his Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55896]

Robert Neill: My Department's mechanism to ensure that payments are passed through the supply chain in accordance with the Government's Fair Payment guidance is via a standard contract clause.

> "A6.8 Where the Contractor enters into a sub-contract for the purpose of performing its obligations under the Contract, it shall cause a term to be included in such sub-contract which requires payment to be made by the Contractor to the sub-contractor within a specified period not exceeding 30 Days from receipt of a valid invoice as defined by the sub-contract."

The Government's Guide to best 'Fair Payment' practices, which applies to construction procurement, can be found at:

www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Guide_to_Fair_Payment_Practices.pdf

Departmental CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many CCTV cameras are installed in and around his Department's premises; and how much such cameras cost to *(a)* install and *(b)* operate in the latest period for which figures are available. [56831]

Robert Neill: The Department has a network of CCTV cameras to enhance security at its premises, to prevent and deter crime including terrorism, and to assist in managing the response to any incidents that may occur.

In considering the public interest, I do not feel it would be appropriate to disclose information which would allow assessments to be made on the location and scope of such security measures.

Departmental Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data his Department has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months; and what such research and data collection exercises undertaken by the Department have not been amended in that period. [56761]

Robert Neill: This information cannot be provided due to disproportionate costs.

Notwithstanding, I refer the hon. Member to:

(i) the departmental press notice of 10 August 2010 on the Place Survey which was previously placed in the Library of the House, further to the written ministerial statement of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1-3WS;

(ii) the answer given to him on 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 107W, on the Citizenship Survey;

(iii) the written ministerial statement of 13 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 20-21WS, on Comprehensive Area Assessment, Local Area Agreements and the Single Data List, alongside the associated departmental webpage on the Single Data List at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/tacklingburdens/singledatalist/

(iv) my Department's Draft Statistics Plan for 2011-12 Consultation, which can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/plan201112consultation

We are committed to reducing the burden of data reporting imposed on local authorities by central Government.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each executive agency of his Department has spent on travel by *(a)* private hire vehicles, *(b)* trains, *(c)* buses, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56078]

Robert Neill: Between 1 May 2010 and 30 April 2011 the Department's Executive Agencies have spent the following amounts:

£

DCLG's Executive Agencies	*(a) Private hire vehicles*	*(b) Trains*	*(c) Buses*	*(d) Commercial aircraft*	*(e) Private aircraft*
Fire Service College[1]	2,296.27	7,097.84	0	6.762.37	0
Planning Inspectorate	18,984.75	200,562.39	1,833.10	5,804.61	0
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	16,885.47	2,025.92	0	3,096.75	0

[1] Data only provided for the period 1 December 2010 to 30 April 2011 as information prior to this period could only be made available at disproportionate cost.

As context, the Department's Executive Agencies spent the following between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010.

£

DCLG's Executive Agencies	*(a) Private hire vehicles*	*(b) Trains*	*(c) Buses*	*(d) Commercial aircraft*	*(e) Private aircraft*
Fire Service College[1]	—	—	—	—	—
Planning Inspectorate	35;916.67	446,548.78	3,791.39	7,989.67	0
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	20,712.09	2,767.16	0	5,394.74	0

[1] Total amount for Travel for the year 2009-10 was £275,461.70, encompassing travel by private hire vehicles, trains, commercial aircraft; overnight subsistence costs, private vehicle motor mileage claims, hotel accommodation and food claims.

Expenditure on travel alone for this period can only be made available by manual intervention at disproportionate cost.

Fire Engines

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire appliances were *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by each fire and rescue authority in each of the last five years. [58241]

Robert Neill: My Department holds data on the total number of fire appliances available in each fire and rescue authority up until 2008-09. However this information is not broken down by whether the appliances are owned or leased.

Subsequent information on total number of appliances in each fire and rescue authority has been collected by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). CIPFA does not break down whether the fire appliances are owned or leased.

Fire Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on the Ideas Bank established following the report of the Fire Futures forum; and when members of the forum will next *(a)* discuss and *(b)* report on reform of the fire and rescue service. [58242]

Robert Neill: The Department does not monitor representations against the "Ideas Bank" from the fire and rescue sector's Fire Futures Reports. Further discussions are a matter for sector partners as they seek to deliver more accountable, effective and cost efficient structures.

Fire Services: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* whole-time, *(b)* retained and *(c)* total firefighters there were per head of population in each of the last 10 years. [58243]

Robert Neill: The numbers of firefighters per head of population in England in each of the last 10 years are shown in the table:

Numbers of whole-time and retained firefighters (headcount) 2001-10 in England

	Headcount			
At 31 March each year	*Whole-time*	*Retained*	*Total*	*Headcount per 1,000 heads of population*
2001	31,615	13,021	44.636	0.907
2002	31,592	13,002	44,594	0.902
2003	31,631	13,048	44,679	0.900
2004	31,856	13,015	44,871	0.900

Numbers of whole-time and retained firefighters (headcount) 2001-10 in England

At 31 March each year	Headcount			Headcount per 1,000 heads of population
	Whole-time	Retained	Total	
2005	31,053	13,543	44,596	0.890
2006	30,708	13,927	44,635	0.884
2007	30,804	14,212	45,016	0.887
2008	30,824	14,166	44,990	0.880
2009	30,242	14,268	44,510	0.865
2010	29,880	14,425	44,305	0.855

Source:

Fire and Rescue Service Operational Statistics, Department for Communities and Local Government and Office for National Statistics Mid-year Population Estimates

Housing Benefit: Cornwall

Sarah Newton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what funding his Department provided to Cornwall council for discretionary housing benefit payments in 2010-11; and what his estimate is for such funding in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [57251]

(2) what funding he expects Cornwall council to receive from the Discretionary Housing Fund. [57252]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The Department has allocated Cornwall council £239,989 for discretionary housing payments in 2011-12.

The allocation of funding for 2012-13 is yet to be decided and the Department will work closely with local authorities and their representative groups to consider how the Government's contribution of £60 million for discretionary housing payments available for next year should be distributed.

Housing: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the availability of shared accommodation in Birmingham. [57908]

Grant Shapps: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 236W, by the Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions, my hon. Friend the Member for Thornbury and Yate (Steve Webb), to my hon. Friend the Member for Hove (Mike Weatherley).

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military personnel have been severely injured in Afghanistan in the last 12 months; and how many such personnel are receiving treatment in the Queen Elizabeth hospital, Birmingham. [58254]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is provided in the following table:

Reporting period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2011

Number of VSI or SI in Op HERRICK	154
Number of VSI or SI aeromedically evacuated and treated at Selly Oak and/or QEHB	150

The answer to the question provides the number of service personnel who have been very seriously injured (VSI) or seriously injured (SI) in Afghanistan (Operation HERRICK).

We are only able to report to the end of December 2010. Additionally, as the figures for the Queen Elizabeth hospital, Birmingham (QEHB) and Selly Oak hospital are captured under the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine Clinical Unit (RCDM Clin Unit), we are unable to identify separately those patients treated at QEHB. Hence, the table shows the number of personnel who have been treated at Selly Oak and/or the QEHB.

Of the four casualties not recorded as being received by RCDM Clin Unit, two were treated in the field hospital at Camp Bastion and then returned to unit in theatre and two were returned to unit in the UK, receiving treatment within primary health care.

Armed Forces Act 2006

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date current provisions on the army under the Armed Forces Act 2006 will cease to have effect. [58937]

Mr Robathan: The Armed Forces Act 2006 applies to all three Services and will expire on 8 November 2011, unless it is renewed before then by primary legislation or by Order in Council. An Order in Council could only renew the 2006 Act until 31 December 2011. Provision for renewal is therefore made in the Armed Forces Bill which is currently before Parliament. If that Bill is enacted, the 2006 Act will expire in 2012 unless it is renewed by Order in Council.

Armed Forces: Conditions of Employment

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether he has discussed implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant with representatives of the Welsh Assembly Government in relation to *(a)* the community covenant, *(b)* council tax relief, *(c)* access to IVF treatment, *(d)* concessionary travel and *(e)* access to prosthetics; and if he will make a statement; [58380]

(2) in what dates he has met representatives of the Welsh Assembly Government to discuss matters relating to *(a)* health, *(b)* education and *(c)* housing responsibilities contained within the Armed Forces Covenant; and if he will make a statement. [58381]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 642W, to the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife (Thomas Docherty).

Armed Forces: Horses

Mr Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on the care and upkeep of horses in each of the last five years. [58286]

Mr Robathan: The information is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

British Sovereign Base

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Lord Ashcroft will be given any resources by his Department in his role of senior independent adviser to the Study of British sovereign base areas in Cyprus. [58518]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 9 June 2011]:* The noble Lord, Lord Ashcroft will not be given any resources by the Ministry of Defence. He is not being paid nor will he receive travel and subsistence expenses. He is part of the review team that was provided with support in the form of working meals, accommodation, and transport on its recent visit to Cyprus. A similar level of support will be provided on any future visit.

Guided Weapons

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of repair to Apache helicopters attributable to the firing of Hellfire missiles has been in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [58704]

Peter Luff: According to available records there have been three reported incidents of damage to the Apache helicopter attributable to the firing of Hellfire missiles. Each incident occurred in 2009. Two involved panel damage and the third was to the aircraft's horizontal stabilator. All repair work was carried out at squadron level by army personnel. Apart from labour costs, the only other cost of repair was that of a panel which was scrapped and replaced costing £19,000. The aircraft with damage to the horizontal stabilator was fitted with a new composite horizontal stabilator which was in the process of being embodied across the Apache fleet.

HMS Endurance

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the cost of maintaining HMS Endurance in the next three years; and if he will make a statement; [58705]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of commissioning a new ice-breaker to replace HMS Endurance; and if he will make a statement. [58707]

Peter Luff: We anticipate making a decision on whether to repair or replace HMS Endurance next year. Until this decision is taken and any resulting competitive process completed, no information can be provided on how much it will cost to maintain HMS Endurance or how much it would cost to commission a new ice breaker. I can, however, confirm that the berthing of HMS Endurance is currently being undertaken at no additional cost to the Department.

HMS Protector

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse has been of refitting HMS Protector; and if he will make a statement. [58706]

Peter Luff: On 22 March 2011 the Department signed a contract, worth £26 million, for an interim replacement Ice Patrol Ship, which has been named HMS Protector, In addition, the Department is spending approximately £3.2 million converting her for Royal Navy use, including fitting military task equipment such as survey boats and communications equipment.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the military and associated action taken in Libya since the passage of UN Security Council Resolution 1973. [58843]

Dr Fox: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1208W to the hon. Member for Islington North (Jeremy Corbyn).

Military Aid

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which countries have participated in military training in UK territory in each of the last 10 years. [57709]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence has a long tradition of training international military and civilian personnel at its training establishments throughout the United Kingdom. Much of the training covers a range of activities in support of bilateral defence relationships in order to strengthen international security and co-operation. The following table gives details of countries that have participated in military training in the UK in the last nine financial years (2001-02 to 2009-10). Information for the preceding year would be available only at disproportionate cost as it was not collated and held centrally before 2001. Data for financial year 2010-11 will be available at the end of June 2011. The information collected does not include training provided at our Overseas Territories as the information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The majority of this training comprises individual students attending military courses in the UK.

Country	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Afghanistan	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Albania	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Algeria	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Angola	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Antigua and Barbuda	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Argentina	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Armenia	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Australia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Country	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Austria	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Azerbaijan	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
Bahamas	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
Bahrain	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bangladesh	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Barbados	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Belarus	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Belgium	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Belize	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Benin	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Bhutan	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Bolivia	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Bosnia-Herzegovina	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Botswana	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Brazil	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Brunei	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bulgaria	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Burundi	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
Cambodia	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Canada	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Chile	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
China (includes Hong Kong)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Colombia	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Congo Rep	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Cote D'ivoire	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Croatia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Czech Republic	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Democratic Rep. Congo	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Denmark	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Djibouti	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
Ecuador	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Egypt	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
El Salvador	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Eritrea	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Estonia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ethiopia	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Fiji	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
Finland	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
France	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gabon	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Gambia	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Georgia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Germany	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ghana	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Greece	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Grenada	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Guatemala	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Guyana	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Honduras	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Hungary	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Iceland	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
India	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Indonesia	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Iraq	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Israel	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Italy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jamaica	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Japan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jordan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kazakhstan	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kenya	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Republic of Korea	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kosovo	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	N	Y

Country	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Kuwait	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kyrgyzstan	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Latvia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lebanon	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lesotho	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
Liberia	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
Libya	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Lithuania	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Luxembourg	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N
FYR Macedonia	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Malawi	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Malaysia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Maldives	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Malta	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mauritania	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Mauritius	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Mexico	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Moldova	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
Mongolia	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Morocco	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Montenegro	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Mozambique	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
Namibia	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nepal	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Netherlands	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
New Zealand	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nicaragua	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
Niger	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Nigeria	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Norway	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Oman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Pakistan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Occupied Palestinian Territories	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Panama	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Papua New Guinea	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Paraguay	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Peru	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Philippines	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Poland	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Portugal	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Qatar	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Republic of Ireland	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Romania	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Russian Federation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Rwanda	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Saudi Arabia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Senegal	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Serbia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Seychelles	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Sierra Leone	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Singapore	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Slovakia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Slovenia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
South Africa	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Spain	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sri Lanka	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
St Kitts and Nevis	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
St Lucia	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
St Vincent and the Grenadines	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
Sudan	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Swaziland	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Sweden	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Switzerland	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Country	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Syria	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Tajikistan	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Tanzania	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Thailand	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Timor l'Este	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Tonga	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Trinidad and Tobago	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tunisia	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Turkey	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Turkmenistan	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Uganda	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ukraine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
United Arab Emirates	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
USA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Uruguay	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Uzbekistan	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Venezuela	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Vietnam	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Yemen	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Zambia	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

Military Exercises

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training exercises by UK forces have taken place in another country's territory in each of the last 10 years; and what the location was of each such exercise. [57708]

Nick Harvey: Records of military training exercises conducted within the territory of other countries before 2006 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Records of training exercises held by the Royal Navy do not include details of entry to the territorial waters of other countries and the provision of such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table gives details of the countries that the army and the Royal Air Force have conducted training exercises in since 2006.

	Financial year					
Country	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*
Albania	1	1	—	—	—	2
Armenia	—	—	1	—	—	1
Australia	5	—	1	1	1	8
Belgium	6	2	5	—	—	13
Belize	13	6	11	6	7	43
Botswana	1	—	—	—	1	2
Brunei	—	2	2	3	2	9
Bulgaria	—	1	—	—	—	1
Canada	13	15	18	14	16	76
Czech Rep	3	2	3	2	2	12
Denmark	2	3	3	3	2	13
Egypt	—	2	—	2	—	4
Estonia	1	—	—	—	—	1
Finland	—	6	8	9	10	33
France	5	11	18	21	11	66
Georgia	—	1	2	—	—	3
Germany	10	30	23	26	20	109
Ghana	—	1	1	—	—	2
Greece	1	—	—	—	—	1
India	—	—	1	—	2	3
Italy	5	3	6	5	3	22
Jamacia	1	2	2	—	2	7
Jordan	2	—	—	—	—	2
Kazaksthan	—	1	1	1	1	4
Kenya	9	7	14	13	15	58
Lithuania	—	1	—	—	—	1
Macedona	—	1	—	—	—	1
Malaysia	1	2	1	2	1	7
Morocco	—	1	1	1	1	4
Nepal	3	2	1	1	1	8
Netherland	—	1	1	—	—	2
New Zealand	1	—	2	2	—	5
Nigeria	—	—	2	2	1	5
Norway	2	3	3	—	1	9
Oman	3	1	4	1	3	12
Poland	3	3	4	9	2	21
Portugal	1	—	—	—	—	1
Romania	—	1	1	—	—	2
Russia	1	—	—	—	—	1
Sardinia	—	—	—	—	—	1
Saudi Arabia	—	—	—	—	—	1
Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	1
Singapore	—	—	—	—	2	4
Slovakia	—	1	—	—	—	1
South Africa	1	—	—	—	—	3
Spain	2	1	—	—	2	7
Sweden	—	—	—	—	—	1
Turkey	—	2	—	—	—	3
Ukraine	—	—	—	—	—	1
UAE	2	2	1	—	3	9
USA	30	27	29	30	22	138

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Arab Partnership Fund

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the £40 million in the Arab Partnership Fund announced for political reform is to be funded by his Department. [59085]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) will contribute up to £20 million over four years to the political reform component of the expanded Arab Partnership. We are also funding the economic technical assistance component with up to £70 million over four years. We are working closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on developing the expanded partnership.

Armed Conflict: Sexual Offences

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department is providing support to the office of the UN Special Representative for Sexual Violence in Conflict. [59082]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) strongly supports the work of the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, whom the Minister of State, Department for International Development, met on 19 January 2011. Ministers meet regularly to discuss the UK's work in this area and the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Minister for Equalities, raises awareness and builds support for this as the UK's International Violence Against Women Champion. We are firmly committed to tackling sexual violence in armed conflict as part of our wider work to address violence against women and girls, in support of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

For example, DFID currently supports the United Nations' Humanitarian Pooled Fund for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which in 2010 funded several projects responding to the needs of victims of sexual violence. Through this mechanism, UK funds provided over 27,000 women with emergency medical care and almost 3,500 women with psychosocial support. The UK also works to strengthen the ability of UN Peacekeeping troops in DRC to protect civilians from sexual violence.

Departmental Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many UK-based trade union officials' employment has been funded in whole or in part through funding agreements between his Department and trade unions in each year since his Department was established. [57621]

Mr Duncan: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) support to trade unions are available in the Library of the House.

Developing Countries: Female Genital Mutilation

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of female genital mutilation in the developing world. [59171]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government condemn female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) as a clear abuse of the rights of children and women, wherever it takes place. The Department for International Development's (DFID's) new Framework for Results for improving reproductive, maternal and newborn health, recognises the serious health risks of FGM/C, and supports locally driven social change activities that can challenge and change norms including FGM/C.

DFID supports measures to eliminate FGM/C through our core funding to the key UN agencies that address FGM/C, namely the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO). We also provide support to programmes run by non-governmental organisations, including to the Population Council who carry out research, policy and programme work on adolescents, reproductive health and FGM/C. For example, in the Afar region of Ethiopia, we supported work to raise awareness of the dangers of FGM/C, providing training of officials and working with community and religious leaders to reach into communities.

Developing Countries: Females

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the co-ordination of work to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women undertaken across the UN system. [58145]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Improving the lives of girls and women throughout the world is a crucial priority for the UK's aid programme. With several different organisations working on gender, previously the UN system lacked co-ordination and focus on gender equality. The UK greatly welcomes the creation of UN Women, a new UN agency which merges four previously-existing UN institutions into one stronger organisation designed to ensure co-ordination across the UN and to work towards gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide.

I most recently met Michelle Bachelet, the head of UN Women, when she visited the UK on 16-17 May. We discussed the importance of girls and women in development and the crucial role UN Women will play in driving better results from across the UN system on gender. I look forward to the adoption of UN Women's strategic plan at the Executive Board at the end of June.

Diaspora Organisations

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the date was of each meeting he has had with representatives from diaspora organisations in the UK. [59083]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have met representatives of diaspora organisations on a number of occasions in the past year. Many diaspora organisations belong to BOND and NIDOS, the Scottish umbrella group for NGOs. In November 2010 I spoke at the BOND AGM. I have also had regularly meetings with NIDOS and am meeting the organisation today in Edinburgh.

The Under-Secretary of State for International Development, spoke at the launch of Africa-UK in February 2011, a new national initiative dedicated to enhancing the contribution of the diaspora to Africa's development.

Department for International Development (DFID) officials meet regularly with diaspora organisations. The mast recent of these meetings was a diaspora network event hosted by NIDOS in Edinburgh in March 2011.

Libya: Humanitarian Aid

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will discuss with the Italian Government the provision of humanitarian assistance to migrants from Libya. [59168]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I recently spoke to the Italian Foreign Minister. We agreed it is important the international community continues to support those suffering as a result of the conflict in Libya. This includes the early action by the UK Government to fly home over 12,700 migrant workers from the borders, provide emergency shelter for displaced people, funding for the emergency evacuation of people from Misurata and essential support for food, medical supplies and personnel.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effects of Israeli restrictions on planning, construction, movement and access in Area C of the West Bank on *(a)* access to water and natural resources, *(b)* food security, *(c)* protection of livelihoods, *(d)* access to health and education and *(e)* the overall humanitarian situation in that region. [58931]

Mr Duncan: We are monitoring the situation in Area C of the West Bank carefully, drawing on regular reporting from the UN Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs:

www.ochaopt.org

and the Emergency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene group:

www.ewash.org

as well as analysis such as that of the Special Rapporteur to the UN Human Rights Council on Occupied Palestinian Territories, published in February this year.

We are deeply concerned about the impact of Israeli restrictions on Palestinians living in Area C. Access to water and land is restricted, there are high levels of food insecurity and loss of livelihoods. Many Palestinians in Area C have limited access to education and healthcare, with the Palestinian authority unable to deliver basic services. In addition, in 2010 there were 353 demolitions (85% more than in 2009) of Palestinian structures in Area C, leading to forced displacement. We have repeatedly raised these concerns with the Israeli Government, being clear that Israel should take the steps necessary to ensure that the rights of people living in Area C are protected.

The UK supports the UN Relief and Works Agency to provide essential services to refugees living in Area C. We are also supporting the Norwegian Refugee Council to provide legal support and advice to vulnerable families and communities in danger of risk of displacement.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Electricity

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had on decentralised energy with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. [58328]

Charles Hendry: We hold regular discussions on decentralised energy with the Department for Communities and Local Government, including in relation to planning, building performance, microgeneration and market reform.

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration his Department has given to the role of distributed generation in its consideration of security of energy supply in the energy markets. [58329]

Charles Hendry: We consulted on Electricity Market Reform in December 2010. Many respondents stressed the need to ensure that changes we make to the electricity system reflect importance of electricity supply at all scales of the energy market, including distributed generation.

As well as the primary challenge of ensuring sufficient investment and development at a scale that delivers the large scale electricity generating capacity we need to keep the lights on, we are also determined to ensure there is liquidity at all scales of the market and to address the issue of barriers to entry for small scale and independent generators.

Distributed generation can also be used as a form of demand-side response (DSR), where local generation is used to reduce the effective total demand of a supplier. We consider it important that any form of reliable generation or demand-side response should be able to contribute towards security of supply, so that we can achieve the appropriate level of security of supply in the most cost effective form. Further details of the Government's electricity market reform will be set out in a white paper which is due to be published before the summer recess 2011.

Energy: Infrastructure

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent progress has been made on his Department's National Policy Statements for energy infrastructure; and if he will make a statement. [59156]

Charles Hendry: As the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, said in his statement to this House on 18 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 20-21WS, we are carefully considering Dr Weightman's interim report on the implications for the UK of events at Fukushima and subject to that we intend to lay the energy National Policy Statements before Parliament as soon as possible.

Financial Institutions

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on the renewal of the Risk Sharing Financing Facility. [58890]

Charles Hendry: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has not had discussions with the European Commission on the renewal of the Risk Sharing Finance Facility separate from the Government's recent position paper on the Commission proposal for a Common Strategic Framework for EU research and innovation funding from 2014. This paper is available on the BIS website.

Natural Gas: Exploration

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 885W, on natural gas: exploration, on what dates *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have met (i) the Health and Safety Executive and (ii) the environment agencies to discuss unconventional gas since 1 January 2011; and if he will publish the minutes of each such meeting. [58308]

Charles Hendry: Since 1 January 2011 neither I nor other DECC Ministers have met with the Health and Safety Executive or environment agencies to discuss unconventional gas. However my officials are in involved in a regular dialogue with these regulatory bodies on this subject.

Natural Gas: Fylde

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department plans to investigate the safety of shale gas extraction on the Fylde coast following recent seismic activity in the area. [58984]

Charles Hendry: Following the recent seismic tremors, the Department had discussions with the operator, Cuadrilla, and agreed that a pause in operations is appropriate so that a better understanding can be gained of the cause of the seismic events experienced in Poulton-le-Fylde. A geomechanical study is being undertaken, along with further work by the British Geological Survey and Keele university. The implications of this information will be reviewed before any decision on the resumption of hydraulic fracture operations is made.

Natural Gas: Morecambe Bay

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has allocated any funds to the development of the Centrica liquefied natural gas platform to be stationed in Morecambe Bay. [59231]

Charles Hendry: The Department has not allocated funds to any offshore liquefied natural gas projects in Morecambe Bay.

Renewable Energy

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the UK's electricity supply came from renewable energy in each year since 1997. [58609]

Charles Hendry: The following table shows the proportion of the UK's electricity supply from renewable electricity generation in each year since 1997, figures for 2010 will be published on 28 July 2011.

	Renewables proportion of UK electricity supply (percentage)
1997	1.9
1998	2.3
1999	2.5
2000	2,5
2001	2.4
2002	2.8
2003	2.6
2004	3.5
2005	4.2
2006	4.5
2007	4.9
2008	5.4
2009	6.7

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 13 June 2011

NORTHERN IRELAND

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many voters were on the electoral register in Northern Ireland in the register compiled in the year *(a)* preceding and *(b)* following the introduction of individual voter registration in Northern Ireland. [58301]

Mr Paterson: The Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland is responsible for maintaining the electoral register in Northern Ireland. Statistics about the size of the electorate can be found on his website at:

http://www.eoni.org.uk/index/statistics/electorate-statistics.htm

The hon. Member may wish to write to him directly with any further queries.

G4S

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many contracts his Department holds with G4S; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58671]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office does not hold any contracts with G4S.

IBM

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many contracts his Department holds with IBM; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58683]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office does not hold any contracts with IBM.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Aerials

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the 800MHz spectrum auction on competition in the mobile network provider industry; [59456]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure equal treatment for all mobile providers on the 800MHz and 900MHz spectrum; and if he will make a statement. [59459]

Mr Vaizey: No assessment has been made of the likely competition effects of the auction but the Government tasked Ofcom in a Direction made in December 2010 to do this and to address competition concerns appropriately and proportionately. A competition assessment and proposals were published in Ofcom's March 2011 consultation. Ofcom proposed spectrum caps, limiting both holdings of sub-1GHz and total spectrum holdings, to allow all mobile providers equitable treatment in being able to secure a portfolio of appropriate spectrum holdings to operate and compete effectively.

Broadband

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of people in St Albans constituency who live in areas with low-speed broadband. [59194]

Mr Vaizey: Approximately 3% of premises (business and residential) in St Albans constituency are estimated to have a connection speed of less than 2 Mbit/s.

Broadband Delivery UK is assessing current broadband provision at community level across the UK in its work to deliver the coalition Government's objective to facilitate universal broadband access of at least 2Mbps and achieve the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015.

Broadcasting: Alcoholic Drinks

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what guidance Ofcom issues to broadcasters on the provision of alcohol to participants in shows filmed for television broadcast. [58322]

Mr Vaizey: The matter raised is an operational one for the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, my officials spoke to Ofcom, who advised:

Ofcom does not issue specific guidance to broadcasters on this issue. However, under Ofcom's Broadcasting Code due care must be taken over the physical and emotional welfare and the dignity of people under 18 who take part or are otherwise involved in programmes. This is irrespective of any consent given by the participant or by a parent, guardian or other person over the age of 18 in loco parentis. As well as this, programmes must not include material (whether in individual programmes or in programmes taken together) which, taking into account the context, condones or glamorises violent, dangerous or seriously antisocial behaviour and is likely to encourage others to copy such behaviour.

Departmental Procurement

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how many contracts his Department holds with Crown Relocations; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is; [58648]

(2) how many contracts his Department holds with Serco; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is; [58657]

(3) how many contracts his Department holds with IBM; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58694]

John Penrose: This Department does not have any contracts with Crown Relocations, Serco or IBM.

Libraries

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department issues guidance to local authorities on the *(a)* purchase and *(b)* dissemination of books of anti-Semitic nature by libraries within their borough; and if he will make a statement. [59045]

Mr Vaizey: Decisions on the publications libraries stock are made by individual library authorities. Libraries need to balance issues of freedom of expression and democratic dialogue with concerns about controversy or offence. The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) guidance on controversial material supports libraries as they make case by case decisions about what to stock. This is available at:

http://www.mla.gov.uk/what/support/toolkits/~/media/Files/pdf/2009/ControversialMaterialReport

National Lottery

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what financial assistance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Lottery has given to (i) amateur and (ii) professional sports clubs in Brighton, Kemptown constituency since 2010. [59059]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England invests national lottery and Exchequer funding in community sport. Although Sport England does not record the amount of financial assistance specifically provided to amateur and professional sports clubs in constituency areas, £244,456 of lottery funding has been awarded to community sport in the Brighton, Kemptown constituency since April 2010, and £347,143 of Exchequer funding.

Sports: Betting

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with national sports governing bodies on the effects of sports betting. [58295]

Hugh Robertson: I meet regularly with sports governing bodies to discuss a range of issues including sports betting. On 8 February I spoke at a seminar run by the Sports Betting Group that was attended by many of the members of the Sport and Recreation Alliance.

Sportsgrounds

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on reducing the rate of VAT on the hire of sports grounds. [59104]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has frequent contact with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), on a wide range of issues. Departmental officials have had discussions with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) on VAT and sports clubs and received advice on their position. Tax policy decisions remain a matter for HMRC.

EDUCATION

Academies: Gillingham

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in Gillingham and Rainham constituency have *(a)* converted and *(b)* applied to convert to academy status. [57872]

Mr Gibb: At present, one school in the Gillingham and Rainham constituency has converted to academy status: Rainham School for Girls, which opened in February 2011. Rainham Mark Grammar School has applied to convert to academy status. There is one sponsored academy already open in the Gillingham and Rainham constituency—Brompton Academy—which opened in September 2010.

Full details of schools that have formally applied for academy status, as well as a list of academies that have opened in the academic year 2010/11 can be found on the Department for Education's academies website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesof schools/academies/a0069811/schools-submitting-applications-and-academies-that-have-opened-in-201011

Arts: Education

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the total number of full-time equivalent specialist art teacher posts in maintained *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools in each of the next three academic years. [57649]

Mr Gibb: The number of teachers that schools employ in future years will, as now, be a matter for them to decide, according to local needs and subject to statutory requirements on class sizes where appropriate. For funding purposes, the Department has produced overall estimates of teaching posts in state schools and academies in England.

The Government do not produce estimates of the future numbers of teaching posts in particular subjects. Estimates of the proportion of teachers working in secondary schools who will be qualified in different subjects are however produced as part of the Department for Education's teacher supply and demand modelling process. These estimates, broken down by subject, are not currently made for teachers working in primary schools.

The latest School Workforce Census data indicates there are around 13,200 art teachers in state funded secondary schools. Of these, around 11,400 hold a relevant post A-level qualification. Estimates for the future number of specialist art teachers in state funded secondary schools indicate that there will be a decrease of around 100 to 200 teachers in each year. This is in line with a decreasing requirement for secondary teachers as a result of the ongoing decline in secondary pupil numbers.

Free Schools: South Yorkshire

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many proposals for free schools in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* South Yorkshire his Department has received. [57992]

Mr Gibb: To date, the Department has received one proposal from a group in Barnsley seeking to establish a Free School, and a further five proposals have been received from groups in South Yorkshire.

Schools: Islam

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what funding his Department has provided to Tifly Day Care in London since May 2010; [50824]

(2) what funding his Department has provided to the Islamic Shakhsiyah Foundation schools in London since May 2010. [50825]

Sarah Teather: The two Islamic Shakhsiyah Foundation (ISF) schools in Haringey and Slough are registered independent schools. They receive no direct funding from the Department for Education.

Haringey council has advised the Department that Tifly Day Care forms part of the London school. The LA has given the school money, for free early education. Slough borough council has also allocated funding to the ISF school in its borough for free early education

The Secretary of State for Education, the right hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), wrote to both local authorities in October 2010 seeking assurances about the processes they had in place to ensure that public funds are being spent appropriately, and are not being used to further extremism. Both authorities agreed that, on the basis of information available to them, they had no reason to withdraw early years funding from the schools.

Subsequently, the school in Haringey was inspected in October 2010. It was inspected by Ofsted rather than the Bridge Schools Inspectorate at the explicit request of the Secretary of State. The overall judgment of the quality of education provided was 'inadequate'. It was served with a notice to improve. Further action will follow.

The Government are clear that there should be no place for extremist views in any school or early years settings. That is why we have established a Preventing Extremism Unit within the Department for Education focusing specifically on safeguards such as strengthening the regulatory framework to ensure extremists cannot operate in schools or early years settings.

Schools: Vocational Guidance

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to implement the recommendation of the report of the Independent Review of Higher Education in respect of the provision to pupils of individualised careers advice delivered by certified professionals. [58188]

Mr Gibb: Subject to the passage of the Education Bill, schools will be under a duty to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance for their pupils from September 2012. Under the new duty, schools will be free to make arrangements for careers guidance that fit the needs and circumstances of their students, including determining the appropriate balance between web-based, telephone and face to face support. In support of the new duty, schools will be able to access high quality support from providers who have achieved a national quality standard for careers guidance.

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the provision of funding for new careers advice services in schools and colleges. [58212]

Mr Gibb: Subject to the passage of the Education Bill, schools will be responsible for securing independent careers guidance for their pupils from September 2012. We will be consulting on extending the duty to colleges in due course. Schools and colleges will be free to determine their local arrangements, including decisions relating to the local funding of careers guidance. Online and helpline services currently funded by the Department for Education will, during the academic year 2011/12, be integrated with those for adults as part of the establishment of a National Careers Service.

Students

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that local authorities are meeting statutory obligations to pupils under alternative provision. [58581]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 9 June 2011]*: Local authorities' statutory obligation with regard to alternative provision is to arrange suitable education for pupils who fall under section 19 of the Education Act 1996.

At present, this education only has to be full-time for those pupils who have been permanently excluded from school. We believe that all pupils who fall under section 19 should be entitled to full-time education, unless this is inappropriate for health reasons.

That is why we have taken measures to commence section 3A of the Children, Schools and Families Act 2010 from September 2011. This section redefined the section 19 duty, to the effect that the education should be full-time for all pupils in alternative provision, unless there are reasons which relate to the physical or mental health of the child which would mean that this would not be in the child's best interests.

There is no duty upon local authorities to report the provision they make for the pupils who fall within the scope of section 19. We have no plans to require local authorities to provide this information. The Department for Education investigates any parental concerns about such provision, and the Secretary of State has powers to intervene where a local authority is not fulfilling its statutory duty.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund: Doncaster

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding has been provided from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund for organisations in Doncaster in each year of the fund's operation. [58418]

Richard Benyon: The Aggregates Levy Database records Doncaster council, an Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) delivery partner, as distributing £188,600 for community-based projects.

Doncaster council will also have benefited from a total of £1,623,887 of funds (including the £188,600) that has been distributed to South Yorkshire region since the ALSFs inception in 2002 and will have also benefited from general national ALSF-funded projects and research activities.

A table listing the 20 projects funded within the South Yorkshire region (including Doncaster) follows:

Grant funds distributed by delivery partners in South Yorkshire (including Doncaster) since 2002

Delivery partner	*Project duration*	*Grant (£)*
Natural England	[1]—	40,378
Natural England	30 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	66,162
Doncaster council	11 November 2006 to 31 March 2007	13,500
Natural England	19 August 2005 to 31 March 2007	138,701
WRAP	4 March 2003 to 26 January 2004	573,788
English Heritage	16 April 2007 to 17 March 2008	51,580
ACRE	1 December 2010 to 31 January 2011	8,348
Doncaster council	11 September 2006 to 31 March 2007	5,100
Countryside Agency	26 October 2004 to 30 March 2005	12,263
English Heritage	6 March 2006 to 19 February 2007	3,000
Doncaster council	15 November 2005 to 31 March 2006	30,000
Doncaster council	1 September 2006 to 31 March 2007	30,000
Countryside Agency	[1]—	170,000
Natural England	31 January 2005 to 31 March 2005	50,000
Natural England	11 July 2007 to 31 March 2008	125,167
Doncaster council	1 February 2006 to 31 March 2006	51,588
Doncaster council	16 January 2006 to 31 March 2006	52,300
Natural England	31 November 2009 to 15 March 2010	75,000
Natural England	17 June 2004 to 31 March 2005	120,900
Doncaster council	31 January 2006 to 31 March 2006	6,112
Total	—	1,623,887

[1] Not stated.

Source:

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund Database.

Beaches: Morecambe

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to ensure that beaches in Morecambe are safe for bathing. [59236]

Richard Benyon: Bathing water quality in Morecambe has improved over the last 30 years as a result of significant investment.

The National Environment Programme that forms part of United Utilities' Asset Management Plan for 2010-15 includes 10 schemes designed to improve bathing water quality in the Morecambe area.

Natural England and the Environment Agency have proposed a two-year partnership project on the lower River Lune estuary under DEFRA's Catchment Sensitive Farming initiative. This would promote voluntary action by farmers and other land managers to tackle diffuse water pollution from agriculture.

An urban diffuse pollution project by United Utilities is nearing completion. It examines surface water outfalls along the Heysham and Morecambe sea front and has highlighted several areas of concern that the Environment Agency is working closely with United Utilities to resolve.

Crown Relocations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many contracts her Department holds with Crown Relocations; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value is of each such contract. [58644]

Richard Benyon: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and its Executive Agencies hold no contracts with Crown Relocations.

Droughts

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the management of future long spells of dry weather. [58340]

Richard Benyon: There is a robust statutory framework in place for managing the impacts of dry weather. Water resources legislation enables Government to manage water abstraction demands, taking account of water availability, and the needs of businesses, consumers and the environment. In addition, water companies prepare and maintain statutory drought plans that set out the actions they will take in response to drought in order to maintain the public water supply.

Climate change is expected to increase the pressure on our water resources and may lead to an increase in frequency of extreme weather events such as droughts.

The Natural Environment White Paper, published on 7 June, announced our intention to provide clearer signals to drive investment decisions to meet water needs and protect ecosystems. The Water White Paper, which is due to be published in December, will provide further details regarding abstraction.

Exhaust Emissions: Bus Services

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the contribution of emissions from public service vehicles to breaches of EU standards for maximum levels of nitrogen oxides in *(a)* London and *(b)* other metropolitan areas. [59017]

Richard Benyon: The Government have completed an assessment of the contribution from all road transport sources to emissions of oxides of nitrogen in London and all other metropolitan areas where there are exceedences of the nitrogen dioxide limit value. This assessment takes into account emissions from public service vehicles and buses and has been published as part of a consultation on draft air quality plans for nitrogen dioxide, which is available on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/06/09/air-quality/

Flooding: St Albans

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent assessment the Environment Agency has made of the risk of flooding in St Albans constituency; [59192]

(2) what recent steps have been taken by the Environment Agency to reduce the risk of flooding in St Albans constituency. [59193]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency's latest flood zone maps identify that approximately 1,400 properties are at significant risk of flooding from local river systems within the St Albans constituency.

The Environment Agency is in contact with St Albans district council to identify surface water and flooding alleviation options for its local watercourse systems. If any viable schemes can be identified, these will be included as funding bids under a future works programme.

The Environment Agency is also liaising with Hertfordshire county council to establish a prioritised programme of works to address surface water flooding as identified by its surface water management plans.

Forests

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on proposals to extend the boundaries of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty into the Lune Valley. [59235]

Richard Benyon: Natural England has no plans to amend the boundaries of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Current efforts focus on consulting on proposals for the Lune Valley to the north of Kirkby Lonsdale to form part of an extension to the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

G4S

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many contracts her Department holds with G4S; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58676]

Richard Benyon: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and its Executive agencies hold no contracts with G4S.

Motor Vehicles: Litter

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress she has made in examining proposals to amend the law on litter from motor vehicles. [58470]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 9 June 2011]:* It is a crime to drop litter, and the offender can be prosecuted in a magistrates court and fined. Littering from a vehicle, especially when it is travelling at speed, presents particular difficulties for local authority enforcement officers in clearly identifying the offender.

An amendment tabled during the Commons Report stage of the Localism Bill proposes to extend the scope of the current offence of littering to make the registered keeper of a vehicle criminally liable whether or not they were present or personally responsible for the littering. That approach raises serious concerns over fairness and proportionality.

A key element in tackling litter is changing littering behaviour. That is why the Government are supporting, through their grant to the charity Keep Britain Tidy, the Love Where You Live campaign which draws together business, communities, local authorities and civil society organisations in partnership to secure a lasting change in behaviour. As part of this, we will be looking to work further with business and others to develop ways of tackling vehicle litter.

Borough councils in London will shortly be able to use new powers acquired through a private Bill currently before Parliament to tackle vehicle littering by issuing a civil penalty. It makes sense for Government to seek to learn the lessons of that approach in London before considering further legislation in this area.

Noise: Heathrow Airport

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress her Department has made in implementing the provisions of the Noise Policy Statement for England at Heathrow and the surrounding area. [58190]

Richard Benyon: The Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) is becoming embedded in a wide range of policies including the White Paper "Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon—Making Sustainable Local Transport Happen", published in January 2011, and the consultation document "Developing a sustainable framework for

UK aviation: Scoping document", published in March 2011, both of which affect Heathrow and the surrounding area.

Furthermore, the various noise action plans adopted under the environmental noise directive, including those covering the London agglomeration, major roads, major railways and Heathrow airport also embrace the principles found in the NPSE.

Consequently, good progress is being made in implementing the NPSE at Heathrow and the surrounding area.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the UK's capacity to meet its obligations under the EU Environmental Noise Directive at Heathrow and the surrounding area. [58191]

Richard Benyon: The production of Noise Action Plans (NAPs) is a legal requirement under the Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC. The NAPs for 23 agglomerations, including London, and for major roads and railways have been adopted and published. The London Agglomeration NAP, which includes Heathrow and the surrounding area, and the associated first priority location maps, can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/noise/environmental-noise/action-plans/

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), formally adopted the Noise Action Plan for Heathrow airport on 19 May 2011 and the final plan will shortly be published by the airport.

Consequently, together with the noise mapping that was completed in 2007 and the information that can be found on the DEFRA website showing the results of the mapping, the UK has fully met all its obligations with regard to the environmental noise directive at Heathrow and the surrounding area.

Rats: Henderson Island

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the rat infestation on Henderson Island. [59033]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has made no assessment of the rat infestation on Henderson Island.

However, two studies on rat eradication on Henderson Island, funded through the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP), were completed in 2008 and 2009. Since then an OTEP-funded detailed operational plan for rat eradication was prepared as part of a project managed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

At the tenth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan, last October, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), was pleased to announce that DEFRA would be committing £200,000 towards an RSPB initiative to support the endangered Henderson petrel, also safeguarding populations of other important, threatened bird species and restoring a globally-significant island ecosystem on Henderson Island.

This brings the total funding that Her Majesty's Government have so far contributed towards the eradication of rats on Henderson Island to over £400,000.

Serco

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many contracts her Department holds with Serco; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58659]

Richard Benyon: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has a multi-source framework agreement with Serco Consulting. This framework is for the provision of interim programme and project managers. The framework contract expires on 2 December 2011. There are currently no active contracts under this agreement for the Department.

The Department and its executive agencies hold no other contracts with Serco.

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff of *(a)* her Department, *(b)* Animal Health, *(c)* the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, *(d)* Forest Research, *(e)* Forest Enterprise (England), *(f)* the Food and Environment Research Agency, *(g)* the Marine and Fisheries Agency, *(h)* the Rural Payments Agency, *(i)* the Veterinary Laboratories Agency and *(j)* the Veterinary Medicines Directorate are entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56441]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is set out in the following table.

		Number of full time TU representatives	*Number of part time TU representatives*	*Number of reps who earn more than £25,900 annually*
(a)	Core DEFRA[1]	12	3	10
(b) + (i)	Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency[2]	2	56	29
(c)	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	0	0	0
(d) + (e)	Forestry Commission[3]	2	2	[4]—
(f)	Food and Environment Research Agency	0	28	23
(g)	Marine Management Organisation[5]	0	17	2
(h)	Rural Payments Agency	3	86	31

		Number of full time TU representatives	*Number of part time TU representatives*	*Number of reps who earn more than £25,900 annually*
(j)	Veterinary Medicines Directorate	0	0	0

[1] We have recently completed a review of Trade Union facility time in core DEFRA. This will result in a reduction in the cost of facility time from 2011-12 (an annual saving of £89,000). The representation will be reduced to two full-time representatives and 13 part-time representatives. Further work is planned to reduce the cost and streamline the management of trade union activity within DEFRA and its Agencies.

[2] Animal Health, and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, merged into one new Agency, Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency on 1 April 2011.

[3] The Forestry Commission, which includes Forest Research and Forest Enterprise England is a cross border body which does not separately account for the trade union activity it supports by country or area of activity.

[4] Number cannot be provided because it is less than five and therefore not disclosable on the grounds of confidentiality.

[5] The Marine and Fisheries Agency was subsumed into the Marine Management Organisation on 1 April 2010.

The cost to the public purse of time that staff spent on trade union duties in the 2010-11 financial year for the organisations shown was £1,251,000. The latest figure available for RPA is for the 2009-10 financial year and this has therefore been used in the total cost figure.

Waste Management: EU Law

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made on progress in meeting obligations under the EU Waste Framework Directive. [58202]

Richard Benyon: The regulations transposing the revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) in England and Wales came into force on 29 March 2011 and no assessment has yet been made of their implementation. Article 37 requires member states to submit reports on their implementation of the directive to the European Commission every three years and the first report must be submitted by 30 September 2013. The transposing regulations will be monitored in order to prepare that report and will be reviewed in the light of the report that is submitted.

Water: Sports

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will consider the merits of introducing a statutory right of access for unpowered craft to inland water for recreational purposes. [50603]

Richard Benyon: We have no plans to introduce a statutory right of access to inland water for unpowered craft for recreational purposes. We are keen to achieve far greater levels of access to waterways for canoeists and other users by encouraging locally agreed, voluntary, access agreements. This fits very well with the big society agenda as it will give access where it is needed and meet the needs of all users and interested parties.

Waterways Trust

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that the British Waterways Charitable Trust will receive adequate funding to maintain its inland waterways network. [59061]

Richard Benyon: The majority of funding for British Waterways comes from its commercial activities and through its licensing operations. During the last spending review period, grant contributed between 30% and 35% of British Waterways' revenue which is spent on the waterways in England and Wales.

In the current, tough fiscal environment, the Government will give the new waterways charity the best possible start. It has already committed to transfer BW's commercial property portfolio and committed to long-term funding at the 2014-15 level (£39 million) to 2022-23 inclusive. The terms and conditions of the funding will be subject to negotiation with the recently appointed trustees of the new waterways charity.

Making British Waterways a charitable company creates new opportunities for growing income from private and commercial sources, making efficiencies and forming supportive partnerships. The charity will also be able to borrow against its assets and so expand income in the longer term.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 388-9W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, when he expects pre-deployment training on cultural and gender awareness to be available to members of the armed forces. [58382]

Nick Harvey: As stated in the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 388-89W, all personnel deployed to any operational theatre already undertake law of armed conflict training which covers the status of protected persons including women and children and some cultural awareness training as part of their pre-deployment preparation.

In accordance with the UK National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, the Ministry of Defence is committed to continuously developing and delivering its pre-deployment training on cultural (including gender) awareness for the UK armed forces. Training is regularly reviewed and updates will be incorporated as and when they are appropriate.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date in January 2011 the tour of duty of soldiers of 2 Signal Regiment in Afghanistan ended; on what date an aircraft was provided to fly them home; what the reasons were for the length of the period of time between the end of the tour of duty and the flight home; what steps he is taking to reduce the length of time between the end of tours of duty on active service overseas and the transport of service personnel to the UK; and if he will make a statement. [58400]

Nick Harvey: 2 Signal Regiment conducted their Transfer of Authority on 15 January 2011. It is standard practice to stagger the arrival and departure of a unit's personnel to and from Afghanistan, in order to maintain operational capability, balance troop movements across theatre and aid in ensuring a smooth handover from one unit to another. Therefore, the unit requested their personnel be transported home on four flights, departing theatre on 14, 17, 19 and 21 January 2011.

However, due to aircraft serviceability and availability issues, the flights departed Afghanistan on 15, 18, 20 and 22 January 2011 respectively. Any delays to the airbridge are regrettable, but we must recognise the difficult circumstances in which it operates, transporting large volumes of personnel, equipment and supplies in hazardous conditions.

Army: Manpower

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many potential army recruits were referred from army selection centres to Cardiac Report Ltd in each of the last five years; what the cost to the public purse was of the contract with Cardiac Report Ltd in each such year; and how many of those recruits who were referred were subsequently declared fit following their visit to the company. [59219]

Mr Robathan: Cardiac Report Ltd provides specialist pre-employment screening services for the Army. Any Army applicants identified with having a possible cardiac abnormality at Army development and selection centres are referred for detection and evaluation.

The numbers of potential Army recruits referred by Army development and selection centres to Cardiac Report Ltd and those whose screenings were found to be normal for cardiac abnormalities over the past five calendar years are shown in the following table:

		Number
	Applicants seen	*Normal screenings*
2006	1,198	1,048
2007	1,757	1,556
2008	1,749	1,592
2009	2,049	1,876
2010	1,292	1,198

Figures for those whose results were found to be normal after screening have been provided rather than those who have subsequently been declared medically fit for Army service. Applicants may be found to have other problems which preclude enlistment and it would take a considerable amount of work to cross check every record to see how they fared overall and this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The cost of the contract with Cardiac Report Ltd over the past five financial years rounded to the nearest pound is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Cost (£)*
2006-07	524,629
2007-08	936,707
2008-09	1,051,430
2009-10	1,149,533
2010-11	697,743

The overall cost to the public purse over the last five years has been £4,360,042.

Falkland Islands

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have visited or contacted their counterpart in (i) the Falkland Islands and (ii) countries of South America since May 2010. [58278]

Nick Harvey: Between May 2010 and 1 June 2011, the following visits to South America and the Falkland Islands were undertaken by Ministers and officials from the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

The Minister for International Security Strategy (Mr Howarth) visited Brazil in September 2010 and in April 2011.

The Chief of the Navy Staff visited Chile in September 2010.

The Chief of the Air Staff visited Brazil in March 2011.

The Commander in Chief Air Command visited Chile and the Falkland Islands in March 2011.

In addition to these visits, there is constant formal and informal contact between MOD officials at all levels with their South American counterparts. Details of this contact is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Routine contacts between the United Kingdom and South American nations are conducted through the United Kingdom Defence Attaché posts in Argentina (with non-resident accreditation to Uruguay), Brazil, Chile and Colombia (with non-resident accreditation to Peru). Moreover, regular contact is undertaken with the Defence Attaches from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela who are based in London.

There is, of course, constant communication between the Falkland Islands Government and the staff of Headquarters British Forces South Atlantic Islands which is based at Mount Pleasant in the Falkland Islands.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of military operations in Libya to date. [59180]

Dr Fox: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1208W.

Military Decorations

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received in favour of recommending the award of a National Defence Medal. [58373]

Mr Robathan: To date the Ministry of Defence has received approximately 260 representations from Members of Parliament and the public in support of the institution of a National Defence Medal.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Government Departments

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprentices there are in each Government Department. [58741]

Mr Hayes: The latest available data collected by Government Skills cover apprenticeship starts during the period April 2010 to March 2011. During this period there were a total of 2,120 apprenticeship starts within Government Departments.

Energy: Housing

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the potential size of the market for securities backed by Green Deal receivables. [58270]

Gregory Barker: I have been asked to reply.

Detail on the potential market for Green Deal installations is set out in our impact assessment on the Department's website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/legislation/energybill/1002-energy-bill-2011-ia-green-deal.pdf

Green Deal is a market-led product, so delivery will ultimately depend on sign-up by Green Deal providers and customers.

The Department has been engaging closely with the finance and investment community regarding the provision of finance for Green Deal. Our engagement to date has suggested that the issue of securities backed by Green Deal payments may be one means of keeping the cost of finance low. Investors have told us that Green Deal backed securities, if created, would be, in principle, an attractive proposition which would increase diversity in the market for this type of investment.

Higher Education: Brighton

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of schools in Brighton and Hove council area sent at least one pupil to the university of *(a)* Oxford and *(b)* Cambridge in each of the last 13 years. [59133]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the following table and is provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Schools in Brighton and Hove with Applicants accepted to full-time undergraduate courses at Oxford university or university of Cambridge via UCAS

	Oxford university		*University of Cambridge*	
Year of entry	*Number of schools with acceptances*	*Percentage of schools with acceptances*	*Number of schools with acceptances*	*Percentage of schools with acceptances*
2001	5	56	4	44
2002	3	33	5	56
2003	3	33	5	56
2004	4	40	7	70
2005	2	20	4	40
2006	5	33	4	27
2007	4	36	6	55
2008	5	42	5	42
2009	6	46	5	38
2010	4	31	5	38

Source:
UCAS

Schools have been identified as those with a postcode in the Brighton and Hove local authority. The figures cover schools classed by UCAS as comprehensive, grammar, independent and other secondary schools in England. Other kinds of centres have not contributed to this analysis. Only schools from which UCAS received applications in the cycle concerned have contributed to the proportion calculation. Figures do not account for students accepted to Oxford or Cambridge who applied directly, rather than via UCAS.

Detailed data on applications via secondary schools are only available from 2001. Data for earlier years have not been provided as the necessary reference data are not available.

Higher Education: Hastings

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of schools in Hastings and Rye constituency sent at least one pupil to the university of *(a)* Oxford and *(b)* Cambridge in each of the last 13 years. [59134]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the following table and is provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Schools in Hastings and Rye with applicants accepted to full-time undergraduate courses at Oxford university or university of Cambridge via UCAS

	Oxford university		*university of Cambridge*	
Year of entry	*Number of schools with acceptances*	*Percentage of schools with acceptances*	*Number of schools with acceptances*	*Percentage of schools with acceptances*
2001	0	0	1	14
2002	1	14	1	14

Schools in Hastings and Rye with applicants accepted to full-time undergraduate courses at Oxford university or university of Cambridge via UCAS

	Oxford university		*university of Cambridge*	
Year of entry	*Number of schools with acceptances*	*Percentage of schools with acceptances*	*Number of schools with acceptances*	*Percentage of schools with acceptances*
2003	2	29	1	14
2004	0	0	0	0
2005	1	17	0	0
2006	0	0	0	0
2007	1	20	1	20
2008	1	17	0	0
2009	0	0	1	14
2010	0	0	0	0

Source:
UCAS

Schools have been identified as those with a postcode in the Hastings and Rye constituency. The figures cover schools classed by UCAS as comprehensive, grammar, independent and other secondary schools in England. Other kinds of centres have not contributed to this analysis. Only schools from which UCAS received applications in the cycle concerned have contributed to the proportion calculation. Figures do not account for students accepted to Oxford or Cambridge who applied directly, rather than via UCAS.

Detailed data on applications via secondary schools are only available from 2001. Data for earlier years have not been provided as the necessary reference data are not available.

Higher Education: Sunderland

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people resident in Sunderland central constituency applied to attend university in academic year *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how many such applicants were successful. [58907]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the following table and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Applicants who were not accepted for entry will include: individuals who did not receive any offer; individuals who received an offer (conditional or unconditional) but decided not to go to university; individuals who received a 'conditional' offer and failed to meet the specific conditions (e.g. they did not achieve certain grades); and individuals who decided to withdraw from the UCAS system.

Applicants and accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses at UK institutions from Sunderland central constituency, 2009/10 and 2010/11

	Applicants	*Accepted applicants*
2009/10	800	605
2010/11	945	677

Note:
Figures do not include applicants to higher education who do not apply through UCAS (i.e. people who apply directly to institutions).
Source:
UCAS.

Insolvency

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the *(a)* governance of the Insolvency Service and *(b)* practices of insolvency administrators; and if he will take steps to improve the service offered by the Insolvency Service to businesses. [59326]

Mr Davey: I am not aware that my Department has received any recent representations on the governance of the Insolvency Service or the practices of its insolvency administrators (official receivers).

The Insolvency Service continuously strives to improve its services to businesses and conducts extensive discussions with its key stakeholders to achieve this. The service is also subject to my Department's rolling internal audit programme.

Intellectual Property

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the implementation of the recommendation of the Gowers Review of Intellectual Property on a limited private copying exception for format shifting for certain works. [58524]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 10 June 2011]:* The Hargreaves Review of Intellectual Property and Growth, which was published in May, recommended that Government realise all opportunities within the EU framework for exceptions to copyright infringement. This included a recommendation to introduce a private copying exception to allow format shifting, similar to the recommendation of the Gowers Review. The Government are currently considering their response to the review, and will outline their approach to copyright exceptions as part of this.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to bring forward legislation on orphan works. [58565]

Mr Davey: The Hargreaves Review of IP and Growth published on 18 May made recommendations as to what it is required to deliver an effective orphan works solution. The European Commission also published on 24 May a draft directive to deliver an EU-wide orphan works solution. The Government are currently considering both of these documents and will outline the next steps to be taken as part of the Government response to the Hargreaves report.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has considered the merits of implementing the recommendation of the Gowers Review of Intellectual Property to introduce an exception to copyright for the purpose of caricature, parody or pastiche. [58566]

Mr Davey: The Hargreaves Review of Intellectual Property and Growth, which was published in May, recommended that Government realise all opportunities within the EU framework for exceptions to copyright infringement. This included a recommendation to introduce an exception for parody, caricature or pastiche, similar to the recommendation of the Gowers review. The Government are currently considering their response to the review, and will outline their approach to copyright exceptions as part of this.

Intellectual Property: Distance Learning

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the implementation of the recommendation of the Gowers Review of Intellectual Property on amending sections 35 and 36 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 in relation to distance learning and interactive whiteboards. [58521]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 10 June 2011]:* The Hargreaves Review of Intellectual Property and Growth, which was published in May, recommended that Government realise all opportunities within the EU framework for exceptions to copyright infringement. This could include exceptions for educational use, such as those recommended by the Gowers Review, as well as other uses of copyright materials. The Government are currently considering their response to the review, and will outline their approach to copyright exceptions as part of this.

Luke Molnar

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to respond to the report of 16 March 2011 from HM Coroner for Greater Manchester South under Rule 43 of the Coroners (Amendment) Rules 2008 relating to the death of Luke John Molnar and the regulation of companies offering foreign expeditions. [58899]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), responded to HM Coroner for Greater Manchester South on 17 May 2011.

Members: Correspondence

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Bridgend (Mrs Moon) of 18 March 2011, reference MM/JH/18/03/2011. [58395]

Mr Davey: My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills replied, on 30 November 2010, to the 23 November 2010 letter which the hon. Member for Bridgend included in her letter of 18 March 2011.

No. 1 Hamm Strasse

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will direct his Department to initiate an investigation into the conduct of the directors of No. 1 Hamm Strasse Ltd in relation to its entry into administration. [59479]

Mr Davey: The administrators of No. 1 Hamm Strasse Ltd were appointed on 1 February 2011 and they are required to report on the conduct of the directors under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 by 1 August 2011 on whether or not in their opinion the conduct of the directors makes them unfit to be concerned in the management of a company. They have not yet reported to the Insolvency Service.

When the report is received, the Insolvency Service, on behalf of the Secretary of State, will consider whether any reported matters warrant further investigation and has a discretionary power to seek a director(s) disqualification where it is believed to be in the public interest.

Overseas Students: English Language

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from universities on the effects of the UK Border Agency's new English language requirements on students who have already been offered places for the next academic year; and if he will make a statement. [59306]

Mr Willetts: I have received representations from a number of vice-chancellors about the difficulties universities are experiencing with the implementation of the new English language requirements and I am also in close contact with Professor Steve Smith, President of Universities UK. I have discussed the universities' concerns with the Minister for Immigration, my hon. Friend the Member for Ashford (Damian Green), and he has meanwhile met a group of university representatives to clarify the new requirements.

Regional Development Agencies: Assets

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made on the effect on growth of the sale of regional development agency assets; and if he will make a statement. [57972]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 8 June 2011]:* Government outlined last year in their Local Growth White Paper how they plan to achieve growth in the regions. The White Paper set out clear principles which Government and regional development agencies (RDAs) are using to decide the final destination and ownership of RDA assets. RDAs submitted their asset and liabilities plans to Government for approval on 31 January 2011. These plans have been drawn up and assessed, against the principle of achieving the best possible outcome for their regions consistent with achieving value for the public purse.

Students: Finance

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 717W, on students: finance, what budget his Department allocated to advertisements on *(a)* radio, *(b)* television, *(c)* online and *(d)* other media to communicate student finance arrangements for each year from 1999-2000 to 2010-11. [56291]

Mr Willetts: The table provides a breakdown of expenditure for *(a)* radio, *(b)* television, *(c)* online and *(d)* other media committed by the Department to communicating student finance arrangements. The table includes a similar breakdown for expenditure undertaken by the Student Loans Company (SLC). Records are only required to be kept for seven years: thus these figures are not available before 2002/03.

Communications expenditure incurred against activity other than radio, television or online advertising is accounted for within the 'other media' column, which includes items such as PR, press advertisements, events, booklets, leaflets, posters, DVDs, research and evaluation.

To date the Department has allocated £1.475 million to the recently launched information campaign aimed at potential students considering entering university from September 2012. This allocation has been accounted for against the 2011-12 financial year and therefore is not accounted for in the table.

Expenditure by media covering the financial years 1999-2010 was as follows:

Financial year	*(a) Radio*	*(b) TV*	*(c) Digital*	*(d) Other media*
2002-03				
BIS	—	623,000	—	1,402,000
SLC	—	—	—	—
2003-04				
BIS	387,000	2,172,000	145,000	1,295,000
SLC	—	—	—	—
2004-05				
BIS	684,000		202,000	1,113,000
SLC	—	—	—	280,598
2005-06				
BIS	460,000	1,400,000	198,000	2,442,000
SLC	—	—	—	1,483,900
2006-07				
BIS	626,000	1,753,000	355,000	1,365,000
SLC	—	—	—	1,097,092
2007-08				
BIS	598,000	1,198,000	421,000	2,283,000
SLC	—	—	10,000	3,278,351
2008-09				
BIS	432,000	1,225,000	239,000	2,104,000
SLC	—	—	18,000	2,833,560
2009-10				
BIS	—		—	60,000
SLC	200,000	—	—	5,063,030
2010-11				
BIS	—	—	—	—
SLC	—	—	28,000	1,622,243

Supermarkets: Competition

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the operation of the Grocery Supply Chain Code of Practice; and what assessment he has made of the risk to UK horticulture industry of comparative pricing competition arising from surplus stocks from the EU and Spain following the recent e-coli outbreak in Germany. [59480]

Mr Davey: None. On 24 May 2011 the Government published a draft Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill, starting the parliamentary procedure for enacting the Groceries Code Adjudicator.

Trade Unions

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department has provided to *(a)* the National Union of Teachers, *(b)* the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, *(c)* the Association of

Teachers and Lecturers, *(d)* the National Association of Head Teachers and *(e)* schemes run by those organisations in each year since 1997. [56407]

Mr Davey: Since 2003, the Department and its predecessors have made the following payments:

(a) National Union of Teachers

	£
2003	0
2004	0
2005	0
2006	7,377
2007	32,283
2008	44,603
2009	44,655
2010	17,882
2011	0

(b) National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers

	£
2003	0
2004	0
2005	0
2006	0
2007	0
2008	0
2009	19,185
2010	16,466
2011	3,200

(c) Association of Teachers and Lecturers

	£
2003	0
2004	0
2005	0
2006	0
2007	0
2008	17,932
2009	28,858
2010	32,983
2011	0

(d) National Association of Head Teachers

No payments have been made.

(e) Schemes run by the above organisations

No payments have been made.

Payment information prior to 2003 can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Churches: Repairs and Maintenance

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, if the Church Commissioners will ask the Secretary of State for Justice to introduce legislative proposals to amend the law in respect of liability for repair of church chancels. [59333]

Tony Baldry: The Church Commissioners have no plans to request the Secretary of State for Justice introduce legislative proposals amending the law for the repair of church chancels.

The Church Commissioners are responsible in whole or in part for the repair of around 800 chancels across all parts of the country. The Commissioners are seeking to register their liabilities based upon their existing ownership of land by 13 October 2013 in accordance with the provisions of the Land Registration Act 2002. After that date, liabilities based on land that are not registered as overriding interests will cease on the first sale of the subject land post-October 2013.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on opportunities to support biogas energy as part of the European Commission's proposals for the greening of Pillar One of the Common Agricultural Policy. [58889]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), is in regular contact with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), on a number of issues including the Common Agricultural Policy.

Carbon Emissions

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on measures to address carbon leakage in energy-intensive industries. [58271]

Gregory Barker: The best way to address carbon leakage is a legally binding international climate agreement. In the interim, the EU emissions trading system (EU ETS) directive provides for the free allocation of allowances to sectors deemed at risk. We support the proportionate free allocation of allowances to sectors at risk.

The EU ETS directive also allows member states to compensate sectors at risk of carbon leakage as a result of the indirect costs of the EU ETS (i.e. increases in electricity prices arising from the EU ETS) subject to a revision of the state aid guidelines. The Government recently responded to the Commission consultation on changes to the guidelines. We will take a decision on whether the UK will offer compensation once the Commission has published the revised state aid guidelines.

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with devolved Ministers in Northern Ireland in relation to the introduction of a carbon price floor. [58959]

Gregory Barker: There have been regular discussions at ministerial and official level between the Department and the Northern Ireland Executive on a range of issues, including Electricity Market Reform (EMR).

The carbon price floor is part of the EMR package. Northern Ireland Executive officials sit on the EMR Steering Board.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to introduce measures to protect energy-intensive industries from the effects of carbon price support. [59264]

Gregory Barker: As set out in the recent Fourth Carbon Budget statement on 17 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 176, the Government will announce by the end of the year a package of measures for the energy intensive industrial sector whose international competitiveness is most affected by UK energy and climate change policies. This will focus on reducing the impact of Government policy on the cost of electricity for those businesses which are critical to our growth agenda.

Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will discuss with industry representatives any further proposed changes to the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme. [58861]

Gregory Barker: The Department is currently considering responses to the stakeholder dialogue earlier this year on simplification of the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme. We will announce initial conclusions once we have assessed all the responses received.

Climate Change: Disclosure of Information

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the UK delegation voted against the decision on confidentiality of draft reports taken at the 33rd session of the Independent Panel on Climate Change. [58998]

Gregory Barker: The decision on confidentiality at the 33rd session was agreed by consensus; a vote was not required.

The UK considers that this IPCC Decision is in line with current IPCC practices for reviewing emerging reports, which seek to balance the need for openness and transparency of the assessment process with the risks of undermining the review process, or misleading the public, by openly exposing draft reports prematurely.

Conscious of the value of further developing transparency and openness, the UK urged the panel to consider ways to widen expert comments in the development of reports. The panel agreed that this would be taken forward as part of the ongoing work of the Task Group on Processes and Procedures.

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of proposal documents presented to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that informed the decision on confidentiality of draft reports taken at the 33rd Session of the IPCC. [58999]

Gregory Barker: The documents that were available to IPCC Members of relevance to this decision are publicly available on the IPCC website at the addresses below. These include comments from parties and office holders on an early set of draft proposals for changes to procedures and the final set of draft proposals that were considered at Plenary.

http://www.ipcc.ch/meetings/session33/inf01_p33_review_report_tg_comments_gov.pdf

http://www.ipcc.ch/meetings/session33/doc12_p33_review_tg_proposal_procedures.pdf

Electricity

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure that his proposals for electricity market reform support *(a)* non-domestic and *(b)* industrial energy efficiency measures. [58196]

Charles Hendry: The UK has a range of policies already in place or in development that support energy efficiency measures in the non-domestic and industrial sectors, including the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme, Climate Change Agreements and the Green Deal, which will be available to commercial as well as domestic customers.

A new Office for National Energy Efficiency will be established in DECC to drive forward a step change in energy efficiency across domestic and non-domestic sectors. The new office is expected to be operational by the autumn.

DECC is currently developing a White Paper which will set out proposals for Electricity Market Reform (EMR). We recognise that demand-side measures have an important contribution to make in supporting the transition to a low-carbon generating mix and ensuring security of supply. We are considering views raised in response to the EMR consultation on demand-side issues in development of the White Paper.

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has undertaken any analysis of the role of distributed energy from sites greater than 5MW in capacity as part of the Electricity Market Reform project. [58330]

Charles Hendry: We consulted on Electricity Market Reform in December 2010. We are currently developing the White Paper which will set out our proposals. We recognise the importance of generation and supply at all scales in order to meet our long-term objectives for decarbonising electricity generation, ensuring security of supply and managing increasing demand for electricity. This includes consideration of the role of distributed energy.

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he proposes any measures to increase the uptake of distributed energy from sites of up to 50MW; and if he will make a statement. [58331]

Charles Hendry: Yes. The Department will be publishing its Microgeneration Strategy, which also covers community-scale energy, later this month. This will be in the form of an action plan for tackling barriers to the deployment of small-scale, distributed energy of all types.

For distributed electricity, we consulted on Electricity Market Reform in December 2010. Many respondents stressed the need to ensure that changes we make to the electricity system reflect the importance of electricity supply at all scales of the energy market, including distributed generation. As well as the primary challenge of ensuring sufficient investment and development in the large scale electricity generating capacity, we are also determined to ensure there is liquidity at all scales of the market and to address the issue of barriers to entry for small scale and independent generators.

For combined heat and power (CHP), DECC and Treasury officials are currently working with the industry on assessing suitable rates of relief from the carbon price floor.

Appropriate support for renewable CHP is currently being considered within the context of the banding review of the renewables obligation and work to develop the second phase of the renewable heat incentive, which will also support domestic renewable heat installations.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has any plans to undertake further analysis of the role that demand side measures could play as part of the UK's electricity system. [58393]

Charles Hendry: The Government are committed to encouraging and incentivising energy efficiency within the home, and in the public and private sectors, and has a range of policies in place to achieve this including current measures such as the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC), Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and Community Energy Saving Programmes (CESP), and future measures such as the Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation (ECO).

DECC is currently developing a White Paper which will set out proposals for Electricity Market Reform (EMR). We recognise that demand-side measures have an important contribution to make in supporting the transition to a low-carbon generating mix and ensuring security of supply. We are considering views raised in response to the EMR consultation on demand-side issues in development of the White Paper.

Energy Saving Trust

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to ensure that the Energy Saving Trust continues to make available to the general public resources funded from the public purse when it becomes a social enterprise. [58567]

Gregory Barker: EST will cease to receive core grant funding from DECC at the end of this financial year. EST are an independent body, but we would expect them, alongside others, to bid for the energy efficiency contracts that DECC will put out to competitive tender in the future.

Energy: EC Countries

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on the level of financial support for expansion of the Trans-European Energy Network. [58895]

Charles Hendry: I have discussed the new EU legislation on energy infrastructure, expected this autumn, with the Commission on a number of occasions.

The Trans-European Energy Network programme (TEN-E), which the new legislation will replace, has a small budget and provides modest early-stage funding to those electricity and gas projects which are considered important for EU energy security and market integration. The Government's view is that infrastructure investment should be primarily financed by the private sector and driven by commercial considerations. However, we acknowledge that there could be instances where market failures might justify the award of limited public funding for priority projects. It will, however, be important to ensure that criteria are agreed governing the award of any such funding so that it is properly targeted and does not displace commercial financing.

Energy: Private Rented Housing

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with representatives from the private rented sector on proposals in the Energy Bill for the Green Deal. [58409]

Gregory Barker: The Department has begun a productive dialogue with representatives from the private rented sector, which we will continue up to and post the launch of the Green Deal in 2012. The sector is also represented on one of the four key industry-led forums for the Green Deal.

Additionally, the Department has commissioned a piece of qualitative research considering domestic and non-domestic tenants' and landlords' reactions to the Green Deal. Findings from the work will be available in autumn 2011 in DECC's consultation paper on the Green Deal.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with representatives from tenants' organisations regarding the proposals in the Energy Bill for the Green Deal to be applied to private rented accommodation. [58410]

Gregory Barker: We want the Green Deal to be an attractive offer to landlords and tenants alike. To this end, organisations representing tenants are feeding into one of the Government's four key industry-led forums for the Green Deal.

Energy: Training

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has met representatives of *(a)* the nuclear industry and *(b)* the offshore wind industry to discuss the adequacy of skills provision to each industry since his appointment. [58305]

Charles Hendry: I regularly meet with representatives of the nuclear and offshore wind industries to discuss a wide range of issues including skills. In particular, I attended a dinner with the National Skills Academy for Nuclear and employers from across the nuclear sector to discuss the importance of skills to them and what they are collectively doing through the academy to ensure that the work force is appropriately trained for the nuclear industry.

Longannet Power Station

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to announce the result of the bidding process for Longannet Power Station to develop carbon capture storage. [58820]

Gregory Barker: Negotiations with the Scottish Power consortium on the UK's first carbon capture and storage demonstration project are ongoing, with contract signature expected before the end of 2011.

Microgeneration

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has set a timetable for the inclusion of life cycle analysis disclosure in respect of domestic microgeneration installations as a requirement of qualification for *(a)* feed-in tariffs and *(b)* the renewable heat incentive. [59683]

Gregory Barker: Life cycle analysis is currently not reflected in the eligibility criteria for the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme. However, all aspects of the scheme including eligibility for FITs, are under consideration as part of the comprehensive review of the scheme this year.

We are currently considering the eligibility criteria for the renewable heat incentive. No final decisions have yet been taken and the criteria will be published for consultation at the end of the year. Details of the Renewable Heat Premium Payments scheme, including its eligibility criteria, will be set out shortly.

Renewable Energy

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the target for renewable energy to supply 10 per cent. of UK electricity in 2010 was met. [58610]

Charles Hendry: Provisional figures for 2010 indicate that the percent of renewable electricity, as calculated on the basis specified by the 2001 Renewables Directive, was 7.2% in 2010.

The coalition Government are introducing a range of measures to encourage investment in renewables and the UK is on track to meet the 2011-12 interim target under the 2009 Renewable Energy Directive.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on support for large-scale renewable energy installations. [58893]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), wrote to the Energy and Environment Commissioners at the end of last year to ask them to give greater clarity to investors on the application of environmental protection legislation to large-scale renewable energy projects. Officials from DECC and DEFRA met Commission officials for discussions on this issue at the end of February.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to compensate organisations which did not apply for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in cases of inaccurate advice given by the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment about eligibility for payments under the feed-in tariff. [58348]

Gregory Barker: The Department cannot take responsibility for decisions taken by individuals or organisations about whether or not to apply for a public grant. This is a matter for the individuals and organisations concerned to consider on the basis of the available information, and bearing in mind the potential implications for eligibility for feed-in tariffs (FITs).

FITs are intended to replace, not supplement, public grant schemes as the principal means of incentivising small-scale low-carbon electricity generation. Advice from my Department has consistently made this clear. It has also consistently provided the most up to date information on exceptions to the general preclusion of FITs and grants in combination, and acknowledged uncertainty where that existed. For example, we provided clear advice at the start of the scheme that the European Commission's state aid decision on FITs would be relevant but that this was still pending.

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost to energy consumers of the feed-in-tariff scheme in each of the next five years following the implementation of proposed changes to tariff levels. [58538]

Gregory Barker: One of the primary objectives of the current review of feed-in tariffs is to ensure that the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme does not cost more to consumers than the amount set in last year's spending review (i.e. around £900 million over the period 2010-11 to 2014-15 in nominal undiscounted prices). This includes a saving of £40 million (around 10%) in 2014-15 compared with original projections carried out before the start of the scheme. It also represents a significant further saving compared with our estimation of likely spend in the absence of a review this year.

The spending review envelope for each year is shown in the following table. It is important to note that each year's figure includes the ongoing cost associated with installations commissioned in previous years.

	Envelope (£ million)
2011-12	80
2012-13	161
2013-14	269
2014-15	357

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the cost to energy consumers of the feed-in tariff scheme in 2020 if *(a)* no changes were made to the scheme announced in February 2010 and *(b)* the proposed changes to tariff levels are implemented. [58601]

Gregory Barker: Analysis undertaken for the Impact Assessment accompanying the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) fast track review consultation estimated that the cost to energy consumers of the FITs scheme in 2020 could be £700 million to £800 million higher under unchanged tariffs compared to costs under the proposed fast track tariffs for large solar PV and farm-scale AD (in 2011 prices, discounted).

Renewable Energy: Finance

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on steps to reduce the cost of capital for developing renewables. [58894]

Gregory Barker: DECC consistently promotes a market-based, predictable and stable regulatory regime at the EU level as a crucial means to help reduce cost of capital and incentivise the significant amounts of private sector investment in renewables which is necessary to achieve the EU's 2020 targets.

Renewable Energy: Technology

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what support his Department is providing to the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan. [58892]

Gregory Barker: The Department takes an active part in the development of the EU's Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan. The UK has an interest in the whole range of European industrial initiatives launched or planned so far, as well as much of the activity under the European Energy Research Alliance. We have been developing a UK stakeholder network to promote and encourage SET Plan engagement. Through this network, UK interest groups have been, or are being, formed.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has made to the President of the European Commission on the proposal to allocate funding for research and development into renewable energy technologies from the next Multiannual Financial Framework. [58896]

Gregory Barker: The UK Government supports a significant reprioritisation within the next Financial Perspective of the EU Budget to support the EU's long term priorities, including innovation, energy, and climate change. The Government's position paper on the Commission's proposal for a Common Strategic Framework for EU research and innovation funding from 2014 argued that the Strategic Energy Technologies Plan should receive an increased share of a smaller EU Budget. However, DECC Ministers have made no separate representations to the President of the European Commission on this specific proposal.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many invoices her Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier 1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55877]

Mrs May: Between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011, the Government Equalities Office did not receive any invoices from tier 1 suppliers.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what mechanism her Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55878]

Mrs May: The Office of Government Commerce's guide to best "Fair payment" practices sets out fair payment processes for construction projects. The Government Equalities Office does not have any construction projects.

WALES

Departmental Procurement

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how many contracts her Department holds with Crown Relocations; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is; [58636]

(2) how many contracts her Department holds with Serco; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is; [58652]

(3) how many contracts her Department holds with IBM; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58681]

Mr David Jones: None.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, pursuant to the answer of 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 719W, on the electoral register, what assessment the Electoral Commission has made of the merits of informing hon. Members of the key performance indicators for electoral registration offices for their constituency on an annual basis. [58449]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission writes to all hon. Members on publication of its annual assessment of the performance of electoral registration officers (EROs). This includes details of the performance framework and directs Members to information on its website, where they can review the individual performance of each local authority in Great Britain.

In addition to this, for the most recent assessment in April 2011, the Commission specifically wrote to hon. Members whose EROs have failed to meet at least one standard in each of the three years that the Commission has been reporting on performance.

The Commission is working closely with these EROs in order to improve their performance and has asked them to report again by the end of June 2011, providing evidence to show how they have now met the standard. The Commission will publish a further report into their performance in the summer.

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, pursuant to the answer of 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 719-20W, on the electoral register, what steps the Electoral Commission has taken to monitor the training and performance of electoral registration officers. [58451]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission implemented a performance standards framework in 2008 which monitors the overall performance of electoral registration officers (EROs). One of these standards assesses the training undertaken by EROs.

The results of the annual assessment of both the training and performance of EROs can be found on the Electoral Commission's website. The Commission is working closely with EROs that have under-performed and has asked them to report again by the end of June 2011, providing evidence to show how they have now met the standard. The Commission will publish a further report into their performance in the summer.

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, how many *(a)* written and *(b)* oral representations the Electoral Commission has received on electoral registration matters from hon. Members from (i) Labour, (ii) Conservative, (iii) Liberal Democrat, (iv) Plaid Cymru, (v) Northern Ireland political parties and (vi) other political parties in each of the last five years. [58557]

Mr Streeter: Electoral Commission records show that a number of representations, including oral and written parliamentary questions and letters, have been received from hon. Members on electoral registration matters. The figures for the past five full years are detailed in the following tables.

Oral representations

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Conservative	3	0	1	1	2	7
Labour	0	2	1	0	2	5
Liberal Democrats	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	3	2	3	1	4	13

Written representations

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Conservative	5	3	7	5	0	20
Labour	0	1	2	2	16	21
Liberal Democrats	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	5	5	9	7	16	42

Electoral Commission records show that no representations were received from Plaid Cymru or Northern Ireland political parties or other political parties on electoral registration matters in the last five years.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Internet

Priti Patel: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 15-16W, on security certificate, who was the registered purchaser who received the renewal; on what date IPSA became aware that the certificate required renewal; and for what reasons it took IPSA and Calyx from 20 April 2010 to 5 May 2011 to renew the certificate. [57622]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated June 2011:

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking pursuant to the Answer of 16 May 2011, Official Report, columns 15-16W, on security certificate, who was the registered purchaser who received the renewal; on what date IPSA became aware that the certificate required renewal; and for what reasons it took IPSA and Calyx from 20 April 2010 to 5 May 2011 to renew the certificate.

Our managed services provider, Calyx, has advised us that the original registered purchaser was a member of IPSA's implementation project team. The individual's identity has not been passed to IPSA by Calyx as the certificate was, erroneously, purchased in the individual's personal capacity and not as an asset belonging to IPSA. IPSA therefore does not have a record of who the individual was.

IPSA became aware on Wednesday, 20 April 2011 that the certificate had expired. We escalated a call to Calyx on the same day and work to rectify the situation was commenced.

IPSA was advised that a verification telephone call would be received from the certificate authority on Tuesday, 3 May; the call was received on Wednesday, 4 May and the new certificate was released to Calyx on the same day. Downtime of the online expense system and installation of the certificate was planned and executed the following day, 5 May.

Taking the Easter Bank Holidays, the Royal Wedding and May Bank Holiday into account, six working days passed between discovering the certificate had expired and the new certificate being installed.

Priti Patel: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 15-16W, on security certificate, on what date the risk assessment was carried out and completed; and if IPSA will place in the Library a copy of the report on that risk assessment. [57623]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated June 2011:

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking pursuant to the Answer of 16 May 2011, Official Report, columns 15-16W, on security certificate, on what date the risk assessment was carried out and completed; and if the IPSA will place in the Library a copy of the report on that risk assessment. 57623

The risk assessment and review was carried out by Calyx security staff on 20 April to ensure that IPSA's security measures were not compromised as a result of the expiration of the certificate. The conclusions, which were that the risk was deemed to be low and that security levels were not diminished, were communicated to IPSA by telephone. No written report exists to place in the Library.

Members: Complaints

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, if he will publish the dates on which each of the 40 complaints to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority Compliance Officer about hon. and right hon. Members was made. [57707]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the compliance officer for IPSA, who is statutorily independent of IPSA's executive branch. I have asked him to reply.

Letter from Luke March, dated June 2011:

As the Compliance Officer for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for the dates on which each of the 40 complaints to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority Compliance Officer about hon. and right hon. Members was made.

I have to date issued 38 notices of preliminary investigations. Of these preliminary investigations, five are the result of a public complaint. The dates on which these complaints were received are as follows: 2 December 2010, 20 December 2010, 21 December 2010, 16 January 2011 and 9 February 2011.

The 33 additional preliminary investigations resulted from work carried out by my office.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Human Trafficking: Children

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General how many *(a)* men, *(b)* women and *(c)* children identified as victims of trafficking have been (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of an offence in each of the last five years; and what the most common offence was in each such year. [58952]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has no records to ascertain how many people identified as a trafficked victim have been prosecuted or convicted for criminal offences in each of the last five years.

The CPS records indicate the volume of offences, not defendants, prosecuted by the CPS under each Act and Section. The records do not distinguish between men, women or children or whether they might have been identified as a trafficked victim.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been of cases involving allegations of trafficking of children in each of the last five years. [59074]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has no records to identify how many prosecutions and convictions there have been of cases involving allegations of trafficking children in each of the last five years.

The CPS records indicate the volume of offences, not defendants, prosecuted by the CPS under each Act and Section. The records do not distinguish between men, women or children who are the victims of trafficking in each case.

Prostitution: Arrests

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General how many people have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* convicted under the Policing and Crime Act 2009 for paying for sex with a prostitute who has been subjected to force in each year since its enactment. [58953]

The Solicitor-General: Section 14 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 created a new offence under section 53A of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 of paying for the sexual services of a prostitute subjected to force, threats or other form of coercion by a third party. This offence came into effect on 1 April 2010. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) records identify that 40 offences have been charged since its enactment. The CPS has no record of the number of arrests. The CPS case management system provides national data which relate only to the number of offences recorded in magistrates court and are not held by defendant or outcome.

Serious Fraud Office

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Attorney-General how many cases have been reported to the Serious Fraud Office since 1 June 2010; how many of those received an initial assessment within *(a)* one and *(b)* three months; and how many took more than three months for an initial assessment. [58531]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) receives reports about suspected fraud and corruption from many different sources including other law enforcement agencies; Government Departments, directly from companies or their legal advisors; Members of Parliament and from members of the public.

95 reports were received between 1 June 2010 to date. 41 were not within the SFO's remit. The remaining 54 were examined in detail to consider whether a full investigation should be taken forward. Of these:

12 were assessed within one month

18 were assessed between one and three months

24 assessments have taken longer than three months

During the same period the SFO also received 1,797 e-mails and postal inquiries and 1,303 phone calls from members of the public concerning suspected fraud and corruption. 100% of these inquiries received a response within 20 days.

The SFO considers all reports carefully to ensure that they meet its published acceptance criteria. Where they do not, the SFO passes the reports to the most appropriate organisation to consider further or tells the person reporting the matter where they should go for help.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Olympic Games 2012

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will consider the merits of relaxing airspace restrictions for the London 2012 Olympics to take account of the requirements of private air fields, flight schools, leisure flight operators and other businesses which are within the exclusion zone. [54513]

Mrs Villiers: The aim of the planned temporary airspace restrictions is to enable aviation activities within the restricted zone to continue as far as possible, consistent with delivering our security objectives. The Government, along with the Civil Aviation Authority and NATS, are keen to work with those in the aviation community affected by the restrictions to ensure that the planned measures and their potential impacts are fully understood.

We will consider whether certain adaptations to the planned restrictions might be feasible and consistent with the overarching security considerations, before finalising the measures later this year.

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who advised his Department on the terms of the exclusion zone for flights during the London 2012 Olympics. [54536]

Mrs Villiers: The proposed temporary airspace restrictions have been developed by the Government, based on work undertaken by the Home Office, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Transport, with advice from the Civil Aviation Authority, NATS and others.

Bournemouth Airport

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he or his Department's officials have to visit Bournemouth International airport in the next year. [59385]

Mrs Villiers: Transport Ministers and officials have no current plans to visit Bournemouth International airport in the next year.

Bus Services: Middlesbrough

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department contributed to the operation of local bus services in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year from May 2005 to April 2010; and how much it expects to contribute in each year from May 2010 to April 2015. [56721]

Norman Baker: Bus operators running local registered bus services in the Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency have been eligible to claim Bus Service Operators Grant from May 2005 to April 2010. Data relating to the amount claimed by operators in this constituency and paid by the Department are not available.

The Department for Transport is providing £37.5 million for the Tees Valley Bus Network—a series of bus infrastructure improvements across the five Tees Valley authorities. Data relating to spend at a constituency level are not available.

Middlesbrough council can run subsidised tendered local bus services where commercial routes are not viable. From 2005-06 to 2010-11, the Department for Transport paid Rural Bus Subsidy Grant (RBSG) to Middlesbrough council for the provision of additional local bus services to rural communities. Allocations at a constituency level are not available, however RBSG allocations to Middlesbrough council were as follows:

2005-06: £18,437

2006-07: £18,889

2007-08: £19,341

2008-09: £19,828

2009-10: £20,350

2010-11: £20,872.

In line with the Government's drive to simplify local funding RBSG payments ended in 2010-11, with the funding transferred and included in the main Local Government Formula Grant administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government. As Formula Grant is an un-hypothecated block grant it is not possible to say how much Middlesbrough council receives or spends on a particular service, for example local tendered bus services.

Conwy Valley Railway Line

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess *(a)* the capacity of the Llanrwst passing loop on the Conwy Valley line and *(b)* the resource implications of increasing the capacity of the line. [58769]

Mrs Villiers: The operation of passenger rail services on the Conwy Valley line is a devolved matter for the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG).

The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has not been asked by WAG to assess the capacity of the route.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the maximum length of train is that can be held in the Llanrwst passing loop on the Conwy Valley line. [58770]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not have the information requested. Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network, has details of the asset. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question.

David Higgins
Chief Executive
Network Rail
King's Place
90 York Way
London
N1 9AG.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of his Department's employees categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [57605]

Norman Baker: The central Department collects information regarding staff headcount categorised by seniority on behalf of the Department and its agencies every month. The Department will commence publication of this information on a monthly basis as soon as it is practicable.

East Coast Railway Line: Rolling Stock

Ms Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable he has set for the introduction of new electric and bi-mode intercity trains on the East Coast Main Line; and what plans he has for the future *(a)* continuity and *(b)* frequency of direct services to and from Doncaster on that line. [58186]

Mrs Villiers: The new electric and bi-mode intercity trains on the East Coast Main Line will be introduced from 2018. The future operating timetable of services to and from Doncaster will be finalised as part of the forthcoming Intercity East Coast franchise letting process, and the delivery of that timetable will be the responsibility of that franchisee.

Ms Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the 100 new electric and bi-mode intercity trains are to operate on the east coast main line. [58258]

Mrs Villiers: 45 of the new trains are to operate on the east coast main line each day.

Ms Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the introduction of new electric and bi-mode intercity trains on journey times between Doncaster and *(a)* London, *(b)* York, *(c)* Newcastle and *(d)* Edinburgh. [58259]

Mrs Villiers: Based on a candidate timetable, the introduction of new electric and bi-mode intercity trains on journey times between Doncaster and destinations could potentially enable reductions of journey times to:

(a) London—around 10 minutes

(b) York—less than five minutes

(c) Newcastle—less than five minutes and

(d) Edinburgh—over 20 minutes.

The eventual timetable, journey times and stopping patterns following the introduction of the new trains will be the responsibility of the franchisee.

High Speed Two: Greatworth

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total cost to the public purse was of the High Speed 2 roadshow at Greatworth. [59325]

Mr Philip Hammond: The cost for the Greatworth High Speed 2 roadshow venue was £220. The mobile exhibition vehicle is owned by HS2 Ltd. This cost does not reflect staff time attending the events which would be difficult to break down per venue.

London Gateway Port: Roads

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effects of London Gateway port on road infrastructure in South Essex. [59350]

Mike Penning: The impact of the traffic generated by the London Gateway port development on the road infrastructure in South Essex has been assessed in line with the normal planning process and the appropriate planning conditions applied. That assessment included the consideration of a staged development of London Gateway.

M25: Repairs and Maintenance

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of the proposed improvements to junction 30 of the M25. [59349]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Transport's statement, Investment in highways and local transport schemes, made clear that we will continue development work on options for M25 Junction 30 for potential construction in future spending review periods. There remains more work to be done to identify a solution for Junction 30 that is both affordable and cost effective and it would be premature to comment on the form that any scheme might take.

Public Transport

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future frequency and availability of public transport on *(a)* Sundays and *(b)* public holidays. [55313]

Norman Baker: On the railways, £220 million has been allocated for Control Period 4 (2009-14) for the seven day railway initiative to reduce disruption for passengers and freight users arising from engineering work at weekends and public holidays.

As regards buses, the majority of services outside London are provided on a commercial basis. Provision on Sundays and public holidays is a matter for each operator's commercial judgment. Where needs are not being met by these services, it is for each local authority to assess whether they should subsidise provision. Within London, bus services are a matter for Transport for London.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which official visits undertaken by his immediate predecessor involved the use of public transport. [55314]

Norman Baker: The Government are not accountable for the actions or decisions of their predecessor.

Railways: Electrification

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the electrification of commuter railway lines into Cardiff; and if he will make a statement. [56876]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport is working with the Welsh Assembly Government to develop a business case for the electrification of the Cardiff Valley lines for consideration within the next rail investment control period beginning in 2014, and are engaged in discussions to that effect.

Railways: EU Action

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has made to the European Commission on the revision of the first railway package. [58868]

Mrs Villiers: Officials have participated in numerous working group meetings reviewing the draft directive under both the Belgian and the Hungarian EU presidencies. They have also had a number of informal meetings with the European Commission.

Railways: Snow and Ice

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advice *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Office of Rail Regulation offers to rail operators needing small quantities of salt during periods of high demand. [56120]

Norman Baker: The procurement and allocation of salt supplies to ensure the safe and effective operation of rail services is an operational matter for Network Rail and the train operators.

Railways: Theft

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the monetary value of cables stolen from the *(a)* West Coast Main Line and *(b)* national rail network in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [58006]

(2) how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of an offence related to the theft of railway cables; what steps he is taking to ensure that those responsible for thefts of railway cables are apprehended; and if he will make a statement. [58008]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not have an assessment of the value of cables stolen. Metal theft is a crime which hits the railway particularly hard and causes levels of disruption out of all proportion to the value of the material stolen. That is why the British Transport police (BTP), as the national police force for the railway, is in the forefront of efforts to tackle the problem, working with Network Rail, the train operators, other police forces, the scrap metal industry and others with an interest.

Information relating to prosecutions and convictions relating to the theft of railway cables is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport police, who can be contacted at:

British Transport Police
25 Camden Road
London
NW1 9LN.
E-mail:
parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk

Road Traffic Act 1988

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects his Department's working party on potential changes to section 172 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to complete its report. [59375]

Mike Penning: We are setting up a working group to review Section 172 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and expect to complete the assessment by the end of this year.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will consider the merits of introducing incentives for local authorities to improve long-term *(a)* road safety and *(b)* value for money in repairs to roads damaged by potholes. [53065]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* Local authorities have statutory duties related to road safety and highways maintenance under the Highways Act 1980, details of which can be found at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/66/contents

These authorities have their own democratic mandate, and local people are able to hold them to account if they do not deliver, which gives them strong incentives to improve their value for money, efficiency and quality of their services.

The Government's approach to local highway services is to encourage better local decision making and accountability, including through decentralising funding, removing "top-down" performance frameworks and supporting the provision of better public information.

The Department for Transport recently launched the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme, backed with £6 million of government funding, to help local authorities make their road maintenance programmes as efficient and effective as possible.

Rolling Stock

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the reliability of *(a)* hybrid trains and *(b)* electric trains. [58262]

Mrs Villiers: In the recent appraisal of the Intercity Express Programme, the reliability of the two train types is expected to be similarly high. Both train types offer a substantial improvement in reliability when compared to the existing older stock, and the contractual structure of the IEP is designed to ensure that manufacturers and maintainers are heavily incentivised to provide a reliable service.

Transport: Volcanoes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to mitigate the effects on transportation of any future volcanic ash cloud. [59105]

Mrs Villiers: The Government's main priority is to ensure the safety of aircraft and air passengers. We are also working to improve agreed international procedures for mitigating the potential hazards caused by volcanic ash. Following the eruption of Eyjafjallajokull in April 2010, the UK has taken a number of additional steps to minimise disruption to passengers and airlines.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has worked closely with manufacturers and airlines to develop a better shared understanding of the ability of aircraft and their engines to tolerate volcanic ash. The CAA has issued revised guidance that enables airlines to operate in the medium and high ash concentration zones, provided an acceptable safety case exists.

The Government are also supporting the provision of new radar cover in Iceland to obtain more accurate data in the event of a future eruption and also the establishment of a permanent civil contingency aircraft for use by the Met Office to conduct atmospheric testing.

The impact of the Grimsvotn eruption in May 2011 was significantly less than last year's Eyjafjallajokull eruption. However, a number of further steps have been taken to address the lessons learned. The Government have established a Volcanic Ash Observations Group under the chairmanship of Sir John Beddington to look at ways of improving the input data for the Met Office volcanic ash dispersion model. In addition, the CAA has established a Volcanic Ash Advisory Group to improve the process for establishing high concentration danger zones.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Art Works: Morecambe

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding has been made available for public artwork in Morecambe under section 106 agreements in the latest period for which figures are available. [59233]

Robert Neill: This information is not collected centrally. Section 106 agreements are contracts between developers and local authorities to make development acceptable in planning terms. It is important that information about planning obligations is made available to the general public. The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2010 requires that a copy of any planning obligation is kept on the council's planning register, which is available to the public.

Community Housing

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps his Department is taking to support the community housing sector to deliver affordable housing; [58341]

(2) what steps he is taking to assist community-led housing schemes to gain access to development finance. [58346]

Grant Shapps: The Framework for the Affordable Homes Programme, jointly published by this Department and the Homes and Communities Agency, sets out a clear commitment to help community groups. The Homes and Communities Agency will ensure that the contract arrangements for community-led groups applying for funding for a single standalone project, and who have no existing stock to convert to affordable rent, are appropriate and proportionate to the risk involved. Funding has been held back to ensure that these bids can be accepted over the four-year process.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he plans to produce for local authorities on the ways in which community housing can meet local housing need. [58345]

Grant Shapps: The Government consider that local authorities, working with their communities, are best placed to determine how to meet the housing needs of their communities. The Government will be consulting on the draft National Planning Policy Framework in July which will contain policy to delivery national objectives, for example on housing. This will provide the flexibility for local planning authorities to decide how they want to meet local housing needs.

Council Tax Benefits: Fraud

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason he proposes to prohibit the investigation by local authorities of council tax benefit fraud. [59330]

Robert Neill: As the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), confirmed in his written ministerial statement of 17 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 92WS, this Department will consult in due course on proposals for localising support for council tax in England. This will include arrangements for investigating fraud.

Empty Property

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of empty homes. [58946]

Andrew Stunell: We are taking a number of measures to bring empty homes back into use, ensuring that the right incentives and tools are in place for local authorities to work with property owners.

The 'New Homes Bonus' provides a strong financial incentive to local authorities to support the development of new housing, including bringing empty homes back into use. To help local councils and communities better identify the empty homes in their area and bring them back into use we have also launched the 'Geographical Information System (GIS) Empty Homes Mapping Toolkit and the Empty Homes Knowledge Toolkit'.

In addition, the Department has allocated £100 million through the 'Affordable Homes Programme' to help get empty homes back into productive use. The Homes and Communities Agency are considering expressions of interest which will help to inform the allocation of funding.

Enterprise Zones

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many expressions of interest in establishing an enterprise zone his Department has received from local enterprise partnerships to date. [58624]

Robert Neill: Budget announced that 11 local enterprise partnerships would be invited to come forward with proposals for enterprise zones.

At the same time, Government invited expressions of interest for a second wave of enterprise zones. This resulted in 29 local enterprise partnerships (and prospective local enterprise partnerships) expressing an interest.

Fire Services: West Midlands

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential effect on fire safety of reductions to fire and rescue services in the west midlands. [58221]

Robert Neill: Decisions on the provision of fire services are taken by individual fire and rescue authorities as part of their integrated risk management planning process, which assesses and mitigates risks to local communities.

No formal assessment of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority's local decisions has been made by central Government.

I also refer the hon. Member to my letter of 6 December 2010 outlining how fire and rescue authorities can make sensible savings without impacting on the quality or breadth of services offered to their communities. The letter is available in the Library and on my Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/crsandfrsletter

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* location and *(b)* holding body is of the archived records of Government Procurement Card expenditure by the (i) Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions, (ii) Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions, (iii) Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and (iv) department known as the Deputy Prime Minister's Office which was in existence in 2006-07. [59212]

Robert Neill: The archived records of Government Procurement Card expenditure for the Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions, the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister are stored by TNT, the Department's external records storage provider, in their storage facility in West Thurrock on behalf of the Department.

Concerning the Department known as the Deputy Prime Minister's Office which was in existence in 2006-07, these records are not held by the Department for Communities and Local Government (formerly known as the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) but are held by the Cabinet Office.

Homelessness

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average cost to the public purse of a successful homelessness application in the latest period for which figures are available. [57077]

Grant Shapps: Local authorities incur costs when providing statutory assistance to homeless households as a result of the need to administer applications and secure temporary accommodation. Net current expenditure on homelessness administration by local authorities in England totalled £205 million in 2009-10. On top of this local authorities incurred costs of £40 million providing temporary accommodation. (DCLG, local authority revenue expenditure and financing statistics)

In the same year 40,020 households were accepted as owed the main homelessness duty. At the end of March 2010, 51,310 households were in temporary accommodation. (DCLG, Live Tables 770 and 777)

However, these two sets of figures cannot be used to accurately calculate the average cost of homeless acceptances to local authorities because they are not directly comparable. For instance, some expenditure on homelessness administration will have been incurred as a result of providing non-statutory assistance to households at risk of homelessness.

Taxpayers also incur costs from statutory homelessness as a result of housing benefit expenditure on households living in temporary accommodation. Temporary accommodation is usually slightly more expensive in housing benefit terms than comparable private rented accommodation (reflecting higher management costs).

However, not enough is known about the circumstances of households accepted as homeless or local market rental conditions to specify exactly how much more is spent on Housing Benefit as a result of statutory homelessness.

References:

DCLG, "Local authority revenue expenditure and financing statistics: 2009-10",

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/revenueexpenditure/revenue200910/localauthoritydata/

DCLG, "Live Tables on Homelessness",

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/livetables/

Homes and Communities Agency: Apprentices

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether he has made an assessment of the effect of the Homes and Communities Agency's removal of national targets for the delivery of apprenticeships on the numbers of apprenticeship places created through funding provided by the Agency; and if he will make statement; [58570]

(2) how many apprenticeship places were created through funding provided by the Homes and Communities Agency in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [58571]

Grant Shapps: While the Homes and Communities Agency does not have specific targets, all providers bidding for funding to the Agency's Affordable Homes programme are required to submit an Employment and Skills Statement. Encouraging providers to support delivery of new jobs in this way is in line with this Government's belief that delivery is best optimised by reducing bureaucratic burdens and top-down targets to free up local partners, the private and the voluntary sectors to drive growth and opportunity. As result of the Homes and Communities Agency's investment programme, around 2,700 apprenticeships were created or safeguarded in 2010-11. A break-down by year for 2009-10 is not available.

Housing: Construction

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of homes built in St Albans constituency were built on brownfield land in each of the last five years. [59190]

Robert Neill: Information on the proportion of homes built on all previously-developed land, the proportion on previously residential land and the proportion on all previously-developed land excluding land that was previously residential in St Albans is shown in the following table.

Proportion of new dwellings on built-on, previously-developed and previously-residential land, St Albans

	All previously-developed	*Previously-residential*[1]	*All previously developed land excluding previously residential*
1994-97	75	40	35
1998-2001	92	24	68
2001-05	94	31	63
2006-09	98	37	61

[1] Includes development on gardens and after demolition of dwellings.

Source:

Land Use Change Statistics

Information for local authorities is shown for four-year periods because of volatility in estimates for individual years.

Planning

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues to planning officers on *(a)* the scope of their discretion in considering material and non-material changes in the use of their delegated powers and *(b)* the exercise of any discretion to designate a change material or non-material. [58273]

Robert Neill: The Department published guidance in October 2010 on material and non-material amendments to planning permission. This document is called 'Greater Flexibility for Planning Permissions: Guidance' and can be found on the Department's website:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/greaterflexibilityguidance

It advises that:

> "there is no statutory definition of [a] 'non-material' [amendment]. This is because it is so dependent on the context of the overall scheme—what may be non-material in one context may be material in another."

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to design a simpler and more flexible plan-making process for communities. [58290]

Robert Neill: Through proposals in the Localism Bill we are removing unnecessary central Government involvement in local plans, abolishing regional strategies and increasing the accountability of councils to the public. The remainder of this plan-making process is set out in secondary legislation, policy and guidance all of which will be simplified as the Bill makes its way through Parliament to introduce further flexibility for councils and local communities.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department are taking to ensure that the experiences from the Neighbourhood Planning Front Runners initiative are used to inform future policy development. [58342]

Robert Neill: The Department has allocated at least one 'link' officer to liaise closely with each of the 17 councils in the 'first wave' of Neighbourhood Planning Front Runners. The insight gained by the link officers into the experiences of individual Front Runner projects will inform the development of regulations and guidance in respect of Neighbourhood Planning. We will issue a final report on the project in autumn 2012.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he plans to issue to communities which wish to develop neighbourhood plans. [58343]

Robert Neill: We are working with the Neighbourhood Planning Front Runners and representative organisations on guidance that will help communities, local authorities and investors with neighbourhood planning.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps his Department is taking to provide support from property professionals to Neighbourhood Planning Front Runners; [58616]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that Neighbourhood Planning Front Runners are able to gain access to appropriate expertise in the property profession. [58625]

Robert Neill: The Department has made available grants of £20,000 to each Neighbourhood Planning Front Runner. These grants may be spent in any way that the recipient council considers appropriate in connection with delivering its project and this may include procuring support from the property profession. In addition, the Department will shortly award grants totalling £3.2 million to four organisations to enable them to provide advice, guidance and other support to community groups and individuals wishing to engage with the planning system. That may include advice, guidance and other support derived from the property profession. We would encourage property professionals and others to engage positively with the Front Runner project by contacting the relevant councils.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to communicate to investors the potential for *(a)* socially, *(b)* environmentally and *(c)* economically-sustainable development of community-led planning. [58626]

Robert Neill: The Government's "Plan for Growth" set out the actions we are taking to reform the planning system to ensure that it makes the right land available in the right place for development and that it will deliver commercial development, vital infrastructure and housing that the country needs.

We have worked closely with the business sector to ensure that our neighbourhood planning proposals provide the opportunities that investors need to work with communities to bring forward neighbourhood development plans and orders. We will continue to work with them to ensure that investors can take advantage of the benefits neighbourhood planning will present.

Planning Permission

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions the Planning Inspectorate has overturned a decision to refuse planning permission made by planning authorities in *(a)* Reading borough, *(b)* West Berkshire and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [58991]

Robert Neill: The following table shows the number of occasions the Planning Inspectorate has overturned a decision to refuse planning permission by planning authorities in Reading borough, West Berkshire and England as a whole.

Occasions Planning Inspectorate has overturned a decision to refuse planning permission

Fiscal year	*England*	*Reading*	*West Berkshire*
2006-07	7,196	20	39
2007-08	7,086	12	23
2008-09	7,077	21	18
2009-10	5,893	13	24
2010-11	5,209	13	28

Private Rented Housing: Energy

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what evidence his Department has supplied to the Department for Energy and Climate Change on the potential effects on the private rented sector of the proposals in the Energy Bill for landlords and tenants. [58411]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government officials continue to work closely with Department for Energy and Climate Change colleagues on the Energy Bill and its potential effects on the private rented sector. Energy efficiency data from the English Housing Survey Headline Report 2009-10 have fed into this process and officials from both Departments have liaised on a piece of qualitative research considering domestic and non-domestic tenants' and landlords' reactions to the Energy Bill's Green Deal.

Shops: Planning

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of implementation of provisions in the Localism Bill on the ability of local communities to *(a)* secure sustainable and diverse high streets, *(b)* promote local influence on the range of shops and *(c)* provide local influence on the location of shops which are potentially harmful to that community. [59267]

Greg Clark: Under the provisions for neighbourhood planning within the Localism Bill, communities will be able to have a real say in the detailed planning of their area. Communities will be able to use neighbourhood plans to set policies for the development and use of land in their neighbourhoods, including setting out policies on retail provision within a neighbourhood area, subject to there being an appropriate fit with local and national policy. Within the constraints of the Use Classes Order, communities will be able to determine the uses to which new properties within high streets and elsewhere are put and to prevent certain changes of use for existing properties. Through the use of neighbourhood development orders, communities will be able to permit specified kinds of development in specified locations.

The Bill also contains provisions to increase take-up of small business rate relief; to ensure that a supplementary business rate levy can only be introduced following support of local firms via a referendum; and to give councils new powers to introduce local business rate discounts. The provisions have the potential to support local shops.

Tenancy Deposit Schemes

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues to the operators of each tenancy deposit protection scheme on the adjudication of disputes between tenants and landlords over tenancy deposits. [58533]

Grant Shapps: The three Tenancy Deposit Protection schemes are required to provide a free, impartial and evidence-based dispute resolution process in accordance with the legislation and the terms of our service concession agreement with them. We welcome the recently published guidance on the dispute resolution process which the three scheme providers produced to help landlords and tenants understand the process and to ensure consistency in adjudication decisions across the three schemes.

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department takes to monitor the performance of the free adjudication services operated by the three tenancy deposit protection schemes. [58534]

Grant Shapps: The three Tenancy Deposit Protection scheme providers are required to submit monthly reports on key performance indicators, which cover the dispute resolution process, under the terms of their Service Concession Agreements with my Department. In addition, the Department holds quarterly monitoring meetings with each of the scheme providers at which any performance issues can be discussed.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Nationals Abroad: Ransom

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the payment of ransoms abroad by British companies or nationals. [59268]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government have a long-standing policy of not making or facilitating substantive concessions to hostage-takers. We maintain this consistent policy because we believe that to make substantive concessions such as paying ransoms would reward the act of hostage-taking and encourage future kidnaps of British nationals. Although the payment of a ransom by a third party to a criminal gang is not illegal under UK law, the Government are firm that we do not, and will not, become involved in activity that could facilitate such a payment. Payment of a ransom to a United Nations designated terrorist group or individual would contravene the al-Qaeda and Taliban sanctions regime established by UN Security Resolution 1267 (1999).

Council of Ministers

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs at how many meetings of the Council of Ministers the UK has been represented by the *(a)* Permanent Representative and *(b)* Deputy Permanent Representative since May 2010. [58200]

Mr Lidington: Either the Secretary of State or myself has represented the UK at every Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) and General Affairs Council (GAC) since May 2010, with one exception. The Permanent Representative represented the UK at the General Affairs Council (GAC) on 13 April 2011.

For information on UK representation at other Council of Ministers meetings, I refer my hon. Friend to the relevant Departments.

Diplomatic Service

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has for the closure of British missions overseas. [53914]

Mr Lidington: I refer my hon. Friend to the statement of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) on 11 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1165-68.

Export Controls

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the terms of reference are for the review of licences for the export of military equipment to the middle east and North Africa; who is undertaking the review; and when it will report. [57438]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) has commissioned a review of Government policy and practice with regard to the export of equipment that might be used for internal repression, in particular crowd control goods. Although this review was originally commissioned in response to events in the middle east and north Africa, any conclusions will apply to our procedures for arms exports to all countries. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is leading this internal review in close consultation with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD). The Government will be reporting back on the review to Parliament. This will take place once the Secretary of Sate has fully considered the findings of the review.

Foreign Nationals: Prisoners

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what diplomatic assistance his Department is providing to the Home Department in negotiating prisoner transfer agreements with *(a)* Nigeria and *(b)* other countries in respect of foreign national prisoners. [59458]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) works closely with the Ministry of Justice to raise the profile of prisoner transfer agreements, and facilitate their negotiation where possible through advocacy, lobbying and project support. This has included in the case of Nigeria FCO participation in bi-annual senior official meetings, most recently in Abuja in March 2011.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), to the hon. Member for Hendon (Mr Offord) on 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 410W. This sets out the Government's policy to extend or negotiate new prisoner transfer agreements with as many countries as possible, including Nigeria.

G4S

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many contracts his Department holds with G4S; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58667]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently has 40 contracts globally with G4S companies, totalling approximately £32 million per annum. The largest two are for Afghan Security Services (£23 million) and UK Guarding (£4 million). Details of the remainder of the contracts which provide physical security to posts overseas are not kept centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Iraq and Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the involvement of Libyan nationals in military action against British forces in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in the last 10 years. [56313]

Mr Hague: It is a matter of public record that Libyan nationals were involved in fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Throughout the time of British military engagement the information available suggests that the relative ease of travel to Iraq in particular meant that Libyan nationals contributed to the foreign fighting contingent in the country. UK and international partners have worked together over the last 10 years to ensure that foreign fighters from Libya and elsewhere could not travel with ease to Iraq or Afghanistan to enter into military action against British forces.

Iraq: Iran

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the use of loudspeakers on the psychological welfare of residents of Camp Ashraf; and if he will make a statement. [58005]

Alistair Burt: We are unable to assess the effect of the loudspeakers at Camp Ashraf on the residents. We have been told by the Iraqi Government that they are there to allow family members to communicate with relatives inside the camp. Based on consular visits to the camp, we agree they are loud and could be perceived to be oppressive at close quarters.

We regularly discuss the situation of Camp Ashraf with our international partners and have repeatedly pressed the Government of Iraq to ensure the human rights of the residents of Camp Ashraf are respected.

Mauritania: Foreign Relations

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to meet his counterparts in Mauritania to discuss Anglo-Mauritanian relations. [58888]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has recently written to his Mauritanian counterpart and a number of official-level visits took place during 2010. We will continue our dialogue with Mauritania through ministerial contact and our ambassador in Rabat, who is accredited to Nouakchott.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on enforced disappearances in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [59149]

Alistair Burt: The number of reported disappearances has reduced significantly since the end of the military conflict in May 2009. However cases are still occurring. We are concerned that there has been little visible progress in investigating cases that took place before or after the war and the recent report by the UN Secretary General's Panel of Experts also recommends the Sri Lankan Government investigate and disclose the fate and location of persons reported as being forcibly disappeared. We regularly raise our concerns with the Sri Lankan Government, most recently when I met the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on 31 March.

World Bank

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the conventions which apply to the nationalities of candidates for leading positions at *(a)* the World Bank and *(b)* the International Monetary Fund. [56309]

Mr Hague: At the G20 summit in Toronto last year, Leaders affirmed the commitment to open, transparent and merit-based selection of their heads and senior leadership of international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

JUSTICE

Prisoners

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are in custody who have more than *(a)* 10, *(b)* 50 and *(c)* 100 convictions. [58852]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of offenders serving an immediate custodial sentence at 30 June 2010 by number of previous convictions. These figures are a further breakdown of table A1.26 in "Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin—Annual Tables" which was published on 28 April 2011.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Number of offenders serving an immediate custodial sentence at 30 June 2010 by number of previous convictions

Number of previous convictions	*Number of offenders*
0 to 10	43,376
11 to 50	26,366
51 to 100	442
101 or more	56
Total	70,240

Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average time between the date of commencement of a case and of a hearing in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal was in the latest period for which figures are available. [58491]

Mr Djanogly: The average time from the receipt to disposal of cases in the First-tier Tribunal—Special Educational Needs and Disability between November 2010 and May 2011 (the latest period for which figures are available) is: 18.33 weeks for cases dealt with at a hearing and 10.88 weeks for cases concluded overall[1].

The tribunal only deals with cases arising in England; the Special Educational Needs Tribunal for Wales (SENTW) deals with appeals against the decisions of local authorities in Wales and is a devolved tribunal funded by the Welsh Assembly Government,

[1] The data are management information taken from HMCTS' database and the 'overall' concluded figure includes cases that were conceded, withdrawn and struck out before a hearing as well as those decided at a hearing.

Animal Experiments

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the application of exemptions from the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for information provided by public authorities on the number and type of experiments on animals conducted in the UK. [59075]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) does not contain an exemption relating specifically to the number and type of experiments conducted on animals. However, it does contain a number of exemptions which may be used to withhold information where its release is not in the public interest. The FOIA also provides an exemption where disclosure is prohibited under other legislation. The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 prohibits the release of certain information about animal experimentation in prescribed circumstances.

The FOIA will be subject to post-legislative scrutiny in late 2011. It will be for the parliamentary committee conducting post-legislative scrutiny to determine the issues it wishes to examine during this process.

Community Orders

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which private contractors on the National Offender Management Service Community Payback National Provider Framework have admitted body status within the Local Government Pension Scheme. [58476]

Mr Blunt: The pension scheme arrangements would be notified to the authority as part of the response to the Lot specific mini-competitions. Given that the mini-competitions have yet to take place, the precise terms relating to how admitted body status will be applied is not known at present.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many supervision orders were made in England and Wales with a condition of unpaid work plus one or more other condition in 2010. [58774]

Mr Blunt: There were 25,220 offenders starting Community Order supervision and 13,709 offenders starting Suspended Sentence Order supervision in 2010 with unpaid work plus at least one other requirement attached to the order.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the expected cost per offender per hour for the provision of unpaid work for the financial year 2012-13. [59157]

Mr Blunt: No estimate has been made of the expected costs for 2012-13.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is developing systems to break down current expenditure on a service by service basis, including unpaid work (also known as community payback). Once the information has been reviewed and validated we will then consider how best to use it to meet commitments under the Government's Transparency Agenda.

The NOMS Specification, Benchmarking and Costing (SBC) programme is creating specifications to be used in commissioning the services NOMS funds. This includes work to support benchmarking by estimating how much it should cost to deliver each service.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many sessional supervisors are employed to supervise unpaid work in each probation trust in England and Wales; and how many such supervisors he expects there to be in financial year 2012-13. [59160]

Mr Blunt: Information is not collected specifically on the number of sessional supervisors employed to supervise unpaid work in each probation trust. Information is however collected on the overall number of staff employed to supervise unpaid work in each probation trust and the latest figures available at 31 December 2010 are provided in the following table.

It is not possible to forecast future staffing levels of those supervising unpaid work, as the responsibility for resourcing levels lies with the individual probation trusts. It is for them to take the necessary action at a local level to ensure they can deliver the required service within available resources.

Number of staff employed to supervise unpaid work by probation trust at 31 December 2010

Probation trust	*Headcount*
Avon and Somerset	10
Bedfordshire	11
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	24
Cheshire	38
Cumbria	13
Derbyshire	16
Devon and Cornwall	44
Dorset	42
Durham Tees Valley	40
Essex	56
Gloucestershire	14
Greater Manchester	73
Hampshire	13
Hertfordshire	19
Humberside	27
Kent	37
Lancashire	35
Leicestershire and Rutland	31
Lincolnshire	27
London	345
Merseyside	16
Norfolk and Suffolk	65
Northamptonshire	22
Northumbria	26
Nottinghamshire	40
South Yorkshire	53
Staffordshire and West Midlands	211
Surrey and Sussex	97
Thames Valley	36
Wales	108
Warwickshire	13
West Mercia	33
West Yorkshire	96
Wiltshire	17
York and North Yorkshire	43
Total	1,791

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any probation trusts in England and Wales received remuneration from local authorities or private companies for the provision of unpaid work tasks in the latest year for which information is available. [59161]

Mr Blunt: Probation Trusts receive remuneration for the provision of unpaid work tasks, but the source is not centrally recorded. The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is developing systems to collect current expenditure and income on a service by service basis, including unpaid work. The total value of third party income is forecast at £1.4 million for 2011-12.

The NOMS Specification, Benchmarking and Costing (SBC) programme is creating specifications to be used in commissioning the services NOMS funds. This includes work to support benchmarking by estimating how much it should cost to deliver each service.

Crown Relocations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many contracts his Department holds with Crown Relocations; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58641]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I can confirm that the Ministry of Justice does not hold any contracts with Crown Relocations.

Driving Offences

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions for driving while using a hand-held mobile phone there have been since the creation of that offence. [58938]

Mr Blunt: Defendants proceeded against at the magistrates courts for offences of using a hand held mobile phone while driving, in England and Wales, 2004 to 2010, can be viewed in the following table.

Defendants proceeded against at the magistrates courts for offences of using a hand held mobile phone[1] while driving, England and Wales, 2004-10[2,3]

Offence	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Using a hand held mobile phone	482	1,168	1,451	10,911	27,092	32,571	35,255

[1] Statute: Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986—R.110(1), R.110(2) and R.110(3). Introduced 1 December 2003.
Offence description:
R.110(1) use of a hand held mobile phone while driving;
R.110(2) causing or permitting the use of a mobile phone while driving a motor vehicle
R. 110(3) using a mobile phone while supervising the holder of a provisional driving licence to drive a motor vehicle on the road.

[2] The figures given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

G4S

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many contracts his Department holds with G4S; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58672]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice holds 10 contracts with G4S which cover prisons, prisoner escort custody services (PECS) and electronic monitoring. The monetary value for these contracts is provided in the following table.

Contractor	*Contract description*	*Total contact value (£ million)*
G4S	Inter Prison Transfer: National	80.00
G4S	Prisoner Escort Custody Services: North Area	264.00
G4S	Prisoner Escort Custody Services: East Area	195.00
G4S	Electronic Monitoring	424.30
G4S	HMP Birmingham	468.30
G4S	Featherstone 2 Prison	359.90
G4S	HMP Altcourse	918.80
G4S	HMP Parc	880.30
G4S	HMP Rye Hill	509.10
G4S	HMP Wolds	73.33

IBM

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many contracts his Department holds with IBM; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58684]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I can confirm that the Ministry of Justice have one contract with IBM and it is for the supply and maintenance of software. The contract value is £6.8 million for a period of three years.

Insider Trading: Prosecutions

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions for the offence of insider trading there were in each year since 1995; and what the penalty was for those convicted of such an offence in each such case. [58587]

Mr Blunt: Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts for insider dealing, England and Wales 1995 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the tables as follows.

Court proceedings data for 2011 will be available in the spring of 2012.

Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts for offences relating to insider dealing, England and Wales 1995 to 2010[1, 2]

Offence description	*Statute*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*[3]	*2001*	*2002*
Insider dealing	Criminal Justice Act 1993, Sec 52								
	Proceeded against	2	1	0	0	2	11	7	7
	Found guilty[5]	0	0	0	0	2	6	5	2
	Sentenced	0	0	0	0	2	6	5	2
	Of which:								
	Absolute and Conditional discharge	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
	Fine	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0
	Community sentence	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2
	Fully suspended sentence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Immediate custody	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0

Offence description	*Statute*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[4]	*2009*	*2010*
Insider dealing	Criminal Justice Act 1993, Sec 52								
	Proceeded against	8	3	0	2	3	5	3	9
	Found guilty[5]	4	5	4	2	6	0	3	2
	Sentenced	4	5	4	2	6	0	3	2
	Of which:								
	Absolute and Conditional discharge	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fine	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Community sentence	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0
	Fully suspended sentence	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0

Offence description	Statute	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008[4]	2009	2010
	Immediate custody	2	2	4	1	1	0	1	2

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[5] The number of defendants found guilty in a particular year may exceed the number proceeded against as the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in an earlier year and the defendants were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year; or the defendants were found guilty of a different offence to that for which they were originally proceeded against.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Offenders: Probation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average size is of offender groups supervised by the Probation Service in England and Wales for unpaid work; [59158]

(2) what estimate he has made of the expected size of offender groups supervised by the Probation Service in England and Wales for unpaid work for the financial year 2012-13. [59159]

Mr Blunt: Information collected by the National Offender Management Service suggests that the average size[1] of unpaid work groups for the period January to March 2011 was 6.1[2].

There is a national competition for community payback/unpaid work currently under way and the expected size of work groups will depend on assessments by the successful provider(s). Therefore no estimate has been made of the expected size of offender work groups in 2012-13. The actual size of work groups is determined by a number of factors including the type of work being undertaken, location and the risks posed by the offenders.

[1] The figure is the actual number of offenders worked (as opposed to the number who were instructed to attend the group).

[2] The figures used in the answer have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison: Drug Seizures

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on procedures for seizure of illicit drugs in prisons using *(a)* sniffer dogs, *(b)* closed-circuit television, *(c)* strip searches, *(d)* intimate searches, *(e)* searches of prison cells and *(f)* police intelligence. [58821]

Mr Blunt: NOMS officials regularly hold discussions with the Scottish Prison Service on a wide range of matters related to prison security, including the detection of drugs and the exchange of intelligence.

Prisoners: Peterborough

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely number of short-term prisoners participating in the Peterborough payment by results pilot during the first two years of that pilot. [58775]

Mr Blunt: The Social Impact Bond at Peterborough prison will target three cohorts of short sentence prisoners, one after the other. Each cohort will contain around 1,000 offenders (the length of each cohort will be dependent on the length of time required for 1,000 unique individuals to be released from Peterborough prison, up to a maximum of 24 months). In the first two years of the pilot, we expect that around 1,000 eligible offenders will be released from Peterborough prison.

The Ministry of Justice will measure the outcome of the programme in relation to the entire cohort of offenders eligible, and does not collect data on participation.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the duration of the Peterborough payment by results pilot will be. [58776]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice has commissioned Social Finance Ltd to run the Social Impact Bond at Peterborough prison for a maximum period of six years from September 2010. It will target three cohorts of short sentence prisoners, each containing around 1,000 offenders, one after the other. The length of each cohort will be dependent on the length of time required for 1,000 unique individuals to be released from Peterborough prison, up to a maximum of 24 months.

The results from the final cohort are expected to be published in 2018, as a time-lag is required to assess the reconvictions of the offender cohorts.

Prisons: Arts

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future funding of the Writers in Prison network; and if he will make a statement. [59178]

Mr Blunt: The Writers in Prison network have a full year of Arts Council regular funding remaining and the Arts Council will be working with them during that time to explore how they can sustain their work in the future.

In addition the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) have awarded the Writers in Prison network a grant of £80,000 for the current financial year. It will be possible for them to apply for a grant in subsequent years. Officials in NOMS have ongoing contact with the Writers in Prison network to ensure that they are aware of any grant and contract opportunities relevant to the services they deliver.

Prisons: Visits

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the merits of establishing visitor centres in each prison to allow work with prisoners, their children and families on prisoner rehabilitation to take place; and if he will make a statement. [58926]

Mr Blunt: We recognise the important role that family support can play in the rehabilitation of offenders. Prisons vary greatly in the type of facilities from which services to visitors are provided, and we have no plans to assess the merits of establishing visitor centres in each prison. However, NOMS have issued specifications and instructions to prisons in England and Wales which establish the minimum levels of service that should be provided to visitors whether or not a prison has a dedicated visitor centre.

Serco

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many contracts his Department holds with Serco; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58654]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice holds seven contracts with Serco covering Prisons, Prisoner Escort Custody Services (PECS) and Electronic Monitoring. The monetary value for these contracts is provided in the following table:

Contractor	*Contract description*	*Total contract value (£ million)*
Serco	Prisoner Escort Custody Services—London and South East Area	338.00
Serco	Electronic Monitoring	324.90
Serco	HMP Doncaster	338.70
Serco	Lowdham Grange	484.20
Serco	Dovegate	782.40
Serco	Ashfield	657.70
Serco	Belmarsh West	931.20

Theft: Sentencing

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average length of custodial sentence for *(a)* armed robbery and *(b)* shoplifting was in the latest period for which figures are available; [58439]

(2) how many convictions for shoplifting there were in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* England and Wales in each year since 2005. [58436]

Mr Blunt: Defendants sentenced and the average custodial sentence length for shoplifting and robbery offences in England and Wales, 2010 can be viewed in table 1. Data held centrally on the Court Proceedings Database do not include information about the circumstances behind each case other than that which may be identified from a statute. It is therefore not possible to identify from robbery offences where the defendant was sentenced for armed robbery.

Defendants found guilty of shoplifting in Staffordshire courts and England and Wales, 2005 to 2010 can be viewed in table 2.

Table 1: Defendants sentenced and the average custodial sentence length (months) for shoplifting and robbery at all courts, England and Wales, 2010[1, 2]

Offence	*Sentenced*	*Other sentences*	*Immediate custody*	*Average custodial sentence length*[3]
Shoplifting[4]	78,867	65,272	13,595	1.9
Robbery[5]	8,514	3,568	4,946	34.5

[1] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

[4] Stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting)—Theft Act 1968.

[5] Robbery and assaults with intent to rob—Theft Act 1968.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Defendants found guilty of shoplifting[1] *in Staffordshire courts and England and Wales, 2005-10*[2, 3]

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Staffordshire	1,073	1,024	1,131	1,198	1,123	1,132
England and Wales	64,076	58,536	62,563	68,335	72,909	79,165

[1] Stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting)—Theft Act 1968.

[2] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice.

Victim Support Schemes: Voluntary Organisations

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what funding his Department provided for voluntary sector groups supporting victims and witnesses of crime in the latest period for which figures are available. [58415]

Mr Blunt: In 2010-11 the Ministry of Justice provided funding of £48,242,836 to voluntary sector groups supporting victims and witnesses of crime, as follows:

	£
Trafficking	1,352,362
Victims Fund—Hate Crime	250,000
Victims Fund—Sexual Violence	1,250,000
Contribution to Independent Sexual Violence Advisers	20,000
Homicide Fund	270,474
Court-based Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (voluntary sector only)	660,000
Victim Support	44,250,000
Brake	50,000
Support After Murder and Manslaughter National	140,000

In the same year the Home Office provided funding of £4,125,307 as follows:

	£
Independent Domestic Violence Advisers	2,300,000
Independent Sexual Violence Advisers	860,000
Contribution to Victims Fund—Hate Crime	15,307
Contribution to Poppy Project	950,000

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Crown Relocations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many contracts his Department holds with Crown Relocations; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value is of each such contract. [58642]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) currently hold no centrally let contracts with Crown Relocations.

To provide information relating to contracts which may have been awarded to Crown Relocations by our delegated procurement officers based in overseas locations would incur disproportionate costs.

Developing Countries: Abortion

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will commission research on the proportion of aid disbursed to each recipient country to *(a)* promote, *(b)* facilitate and *(b)* perform abortions. [58184]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government have no such plans. It is not possible to disaggregate UK aid spending for safe abortion from wider expenditure on areas such as reproductive health care, maternal and neonatal health and health personnel development. This is because the Department for International Development (DFID) works to improve access to effective and integrated health services.

It is a major priority for the UK Government to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights, including access to modern family planning methods and promoting women's choice, in the developing world. Safe abortion reduces recourse to unsafe abortion and saves maternal lives. Each year 65-70,000 women die following unsafe abortion. DFID's policy position on safe abortion is set out in the practice paper "Safe and unsafe abortion", which will be placed in the Library of the House.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will ask the Independent Commission for Aid Impact to assess the Government's international climate finance plan. [58201]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) decides independently what aspects of the UK aid programme it will review. ICAI developed its current work plan following extensive consultation. The plan includes an evaluation of climate change financing across Government Departments and a separate evaluation of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) climate change programme in Bangladesh.

Developing Countries: Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effects of food commodity prices on access to staple foods in developing countries. [58739]

Mr O'Brien: International food prices have increased significantly over the past nine months, reaching their highest levels since 1990, but the recent picture has been mixed. The Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO's) Food Price Index (FFPI) showed that a sharp increase in international grain prices in April more than offset declines in dairy, sugar and rice, while oils and meat prices were mostly unchanged.

Local food prices follow global food markets, albeit with a slight time lag. Analysis of the domestic prices of staples in developing countries again shows a mixed picture. In Nigeria, prices of sorghum and maize in Kano, the main market of the country, rose by about 11% in March from the previous month. However, in Mozambique, prices of main staple maize declined markedly between March and April in all monitored markets reflecting the start of the 2011 harvest. In Malawi, prices of maize rose in March but are 50% below the levels of the previous year following the 2010 bumper crop and expectation of another good harvest in 2011.

G4S

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many contracts his Department holds with G4S; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value is of each such contract. [58673]

Mr Duncan: The following table details the centrally let contracts the Department for International Development (DFID) holds with G4S.

Start date	*End date*	*Contract for*	*Consultant's name*	*Contract value (£)*
1 March 2007	31 July 2011	Providing security services for DFID India office and expat residential properties in Delhi	G4S Security Services (India) Pvt. Ltd.	638,920
1 April 2011	31 March 2013	Providing outsourced driver services to BHC, New Delhi and DFID India	G4S Facility Services (India) Pvt. Ltd	[1]80,705

[1] Amount paid by DFID. This is a joint DFID FCO contract with a total value of £183,632.

To provide information relating to contracts which may have been awarded to G4S by our delegated procurement officers based in overseas locations would incur disproportionate costs.

IBM

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many contracts his Department holds with IBM; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value is of each such contract. [58685]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) currently hold no centrally let contracts with IBM.

To provide information relating to contracts which may have been awarded to IBM by our delegated procurement officers based in overseas locations would incur disproportionate costs.

Overseas Aid: Private Sector

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department's paper, The Engine of Development: The private sector and prosperity for poor people, constitutes the primary strategy document of its Private Sector Department. [58696]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) private sector paper is not a strategy, but rather sets out our new approach to working with the private sector. The paper gives examples of activities outlined in the Operational Plans of DFID country, regional and central teams. It is not intended as a blueprint for our future activities, since our approach will remain flexible to allow for the dynamism of private enterprise.

Serco

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many contracts his Department holds with Serco; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value is of each such contract. [58663]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) currently hold no centrally let contracts with Serco.

To provide information relating to contracts which may have been awarded to Serco by our delegated procurement officers based in overseas locations would incur disproportionate costs.

TREASURY

Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason the announced final proposals on a carbon floor price differ from those modelled in his Department's consultation. [58310]

Justine Greening: The consultation asked for views on how best to implement a carbon price floor, including how the Government should determine future market prices of carbon upon which to base carbon price support rates. For illustrative purposes the consultation used the Government's long-term carbon price forecast as modelled by DECC,

The Government response to the consultation confirmed that a market-based approach would be used to determine carbon price support rates as this was the option preferred by respondents. The Finance Bill reflects this approach.

The Government's response is available online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/carbon_price_floor_consultation_govt_response.pdf

Child Care Tax Credit

Lyn Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effects on the annual level of payments to a family with one child entitled to the full amount of implementation of the proposals to reduce the child care element of working tax credit. [58732]

Mr Gauke: No estimate has been made.

The reduction in the child care element is part of a range of reforms to the tax credits system announced at the spending review.

Estimating the impact of an individual measure does not give a clear indication of the full monetary impact on an individual household.

The Government published estimates of the distributional impact of the whole package of announced tax and benefit measures which can be found at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_annexb.pdf

Commodity Markets

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is on the proposals by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for an international commodities trading tax; [58735]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the value of holdings in commodity index funds traded in the UK in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009, *(d)* 2010 and *(e)* 2011 to date; [58736]

(3) what his policy is on the regulation of derivative markets in foodstuffs; [58737]

(4) what discussions he has had in the G20 on the regulation of derivative markets in foodstuffs. [58738]

Mr Hoban: The causes of volatility in international agricultural markets, and the appropriate policy response, are the subject of ongoing discussion across the different G20 formations.

It is difficult to be definitive about the role of speculation in agricultural price spikes. Food supply and prices are affected by a number of factors including global energy prices, global stock levels, the size of harvests, changes in exchange rates and national agricultural trade and marketing policies. On balance we are sceptical about the degree to which speculation has played a significant causal role. The Government continues to monitor relevant research in this area with interest.

It is also important to note that trading in commodities markets plays an important role in providing liquidity (the volume of trades being made in a market) in these markets and that liquidity is essential to the effective functioning of these markets. Against the backdrop of climate change, and the possibility that international agricultural prices may become more volatile over time, the role of agricultural futures and options markets, and the liquidity they rely on, become more important.

Before any regulations are introduced it is important that there is a clear understanding of the associated costs and benefits. The Government would need to see a more detailed proposal from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development before they could comment.

Information on the value of holdings in commodity index funds traded in the UK is not centrally collected.

Crown Relocations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many contracts his Department holds with Crown Relocations; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58639]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury do not currently hold any contracts with Crown Relocations.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on what date special advisers in his Department last used the Government car pool to travel in an official capacity; and on how many occasions a special adviser in his Department has travelled to their home address using the Government car pool since May 2010; [56089]

(2) how much his Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft since May 2010; [56105]

Justine Greening: The use of official cars and taxis by civil servants, including special advisers, is governed by the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code.

G4S

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many contracts his Department holds with G4S; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58675]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury do not currently hold any contracts with G4S.

IBM

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many contracts his Department holds with IBM; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58689]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury do not currently hold any contracts with IBM.

Public Sector Debt: Greece

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the exposure to Greek government debt of banks with a majority UK financial investments shareholding. [59382]

Mr Hoban: The Government do not comment on the exposures of specific firms.

However Royal Bank of Scotland has published information on country risk in their Q1 2011 Interim Management Statement, which can be found on their website at:

http://www.investors.rbs.com/results_presentations

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the exposure of the Bank of England to Greek government debt. [59383]

Mr Hoban: The Court of Directors at the Bank of England are responsible for decisions related to the Bank's activities in this area. The Bank reviews its risk management and business management activities in its Annual Report, along with its other activities.

Taxation: Aviation

Henry Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the grounds in international law are for his decision not to proceed with a per plane tax. [59124]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 359-60W.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice he has received from the Office of Tax Simplification on the simplification of environmental taxes. [58269]

Justine Greening: As part of the Office of Tax Simplification's (OTS) report on the review of tax reliefs the OTS suggested that both landfill tax and the aggregates levy should be reviewed, as both regimes contain basic charging provisions with numerous exemptions and it may be more appropriate to define what is included rather than what is excluded. The full OTS report can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/ots_review_tax_reliefs_final_report.pdf

Taxation: International Co-operation

Toby Perkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his G20 counterparts on developing a system for the automatic exchange of information between tax jurisdictions. [58285]

Mr Gauke: The focus of discussions in the G20 on tax is on ensuring that all jurisdictions implement the internationally agreed standard for exchange of information on request. Automatic exchange of information is particularly important within the EU, where discussions have focused on strengthening relevant directives, notably the savings directive which provides for automatic exchange of information on savings income.

Taxation: Offshore Industry

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 360W, on taxation: offshore industry, if he will request the Office for National Statistics to determine whether the Energy Company Obligation is to be considered levy-funded spending before the Energy Bill *[Lords]* is considered in Public Bill Committee. [58283]

Justine Greening: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has not yet considered the classification of the proposed Energy Company Obligation. Final classification decisions would be issued by ONS after the policy is announced by the Government.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effects on levels of North sea oil and gas production of the changes proposed to the tax regime in the 2011 Budget [58359]

Justine Greening: As set out in Budget tax information and impact note which can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6133.htm

the Government do not expect a significant impact on investment or production in the forecast period as a consequence of this measure.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will asses the effects of the increase in the supplementary charge on oil and gas companies registered in the UK on energy security. [58424]

Justine Greening: The Government, in the Budget tax information and impact note which can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6133.htm

have already made an assessment of the impact of the supplementary charge increase. The Government do not expect a significant impact on investment or production (and thus on the UK's energy security) in the forecast period as a consequence of this measure.

Taxation: Self-assessment

Jason McCartney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs telephone advisers were available to deal with taxpayer queries related to self-assessment tax returns on average in each day of the latest period for which figures are available. [58276]

Mr Gauke: The majority of calls to HMRC from customers with self-assessment queries are routed through a virtual network of centrally managed contact centres to advisers who are able to deal with a wide range of both self-assessment and PAYE queries. Consequently HMRC is unable to disaggregate the number of advisers available to deal specifically with queries related to self-assessment tax returns from those available to deal with other inquiries.

Vehicle Excise Duty

George Eustice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the annual cost to the Exchequer of restoring the exemption from vehicle excise duty for 25-year-old vehicles. [58836]

David Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria apply to the exemption from road tax for classic vehicles registered for more than 25 years. [59238]

Justine Greening: The criterion for a classic vehicle to be exempt from vehicle excise duty is that the vehicle must have been built or registered prior to 1 January 1973. The cost of change has not been estimated as the Government have no plans to change the exemption against the current backdrop of fiscal consolidation.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much each local authority spent on electoral registration per elector in the latest period for which figures are available. [58280]

Mr Harper: The Electoral Commission has published financial data for each local authority in Great Britain, covering the 2007-08 and 2008-09 financial years. Information on the 2009-10 financial year will be published on its website in July 2011.

The information requested can be found on the Commission's website:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/performance-standards/financial-information

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report,* column 296W, on constituencies, (1) by what means he expects the implementation of individual voter registration to increase levels of voter registration; [58300]

(2) pursuant to the answers of 6 September 2011, *Official Report,* columns 298-303W, on the electoral register, when he plans to set out his approach to raising rates of electoral registration among groups identified as currently under-registered. [58371]

Mr Harper: The introduction of individual electoral registration will allow steps to be taken to improve the completeness of the electoral register.

We will make a full announcement about the Government's plans for the implementation of individual electoral registration shortly.

We are already this year running data matching pilot schemes to compare the electoral register against other public databases to find people missing from the electoral register to invite them to register. These are due to begin shortly and will run until the end of November 2011. Based on the outcome of these pilots we will decide whether to roll this out more widely.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 301W, on the electoral register, if he will consider the merits of collecting information on the *(a)* number, *(b)* location and *(c)* performance of electoral registration working groups. [58302]

Mr Harper: The Government have no current plans to collect such information.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 303-04W, on the electoral register, what information he holds on any local authority which has not implemented the provisions of section 96 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 in respect of the number of house to house inquiries to be carried out. [58370]

Mr Harper: The Department does not hold any information in addition to the information collected and published by the Electoral Commission. Information on performance by electoral registration officers in each local authority is collected by the Electoral Commission as part of its work on monitoring performance standards. The Electoral Commission's Third Report on Performance Standards was published in April 2011 and can be found at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/116444/ERO-Performance-Report-Final.pdf

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 300-01W, on the electoral register, which local authorities applied for funding from the £2.5 million set aside by the Ministry of Justice to encourage participation in electoral registration. [58448]

Mr Harper: I refer the hon. Member to my reply given on 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 300-01W, in which I undertook to provide a breakdown of the amounts which were provided to individual local authorities to encourage participation in electoral registration in each of the financial years 2007-08 to 2009-10 to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. I provided this on 19 January 2011.

I will arrange for an updated breakdown of the amounts which were provided to individual local authorities in the financial year 2009-10 and for 2010-11 to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 584-5W, on the electoral register, on what date it was decided to end the Participation Fund. [58450]

Mr Harper: I refer the hon. Member to my reply given on 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 584-5W, in which I advised that a decision to end the Participation Fund was taken as part of the Emergency Budget which was published on 22 June 2010.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 304W, on the electoral register, what assessment he has made of *(a)* the current self-assessment procedure for Electoral Registration Officers and *(b)* the effectiveness of the Electoral Commission in monitoring that procedure. [58452]

Mr Harper: The Electoral Commission asks electoral registration officers (EROs) to report their performance in line with legislation and then carries out a verification process on a sample of returns to assess quality and accuracy.

I understand that the commission has scrutinised evidence (by means of hard copy submission or face to face meetings) with over three quarters of local authorities (covering both EROs and returning officers) over a three-year period.

The commission will be refining the standards over the coming year in consultation with external stakeholders (electoral administrators, the Association of Electoral Administrators, DCLG and Cabinet Office) to build on the work carried out over the last three years, and more recently on the referendums held in March and May 2011.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to improve electoral registration rates in areas with large numbers of residents who are functionally illiterate. [58556]

Mr Harper: Electoral registration officers (EROs) are under a duty to take all necessary steps to ensure an accurate and comprehensive register. The Electoral Commission is responsible for providing guidance to EROs. The Commission recommends that the electoral registration office and contact staff are trained to deal with inquiries from people who have low level reading and writing skills and suggests that EROs may want to produce easy-read literature to enable greater understanding of the registration process.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister for what reasons he proposes to change the date for the introduction of individual voter registration from 2015 to 2014. [58594]

Mr Harper: The coalition agreement published in May last year promised to speed up the implementation of individual electoral registration to tackle election fraud. I then announced in the House in September last year that we proposed to drop the previous Government's plans for a voluntary phase of individual registration and move directly to make it compulsory from 2014, with special transitional arrangements to "carry forward" any electors already on the register who do not register under the new system that year.

The introduction of individual electoral registration will allow steps to be taken to tackle electoral fraud to restore voters' confidence in the system by improving the accuracy and security of the register, but they will also allow the Government to take steps to improve the completeness of the register.

We will make a full announcement about the Government's plans for the implementation of individual electoral registration shortly.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the effects of the introduction of individual voter registration on levels of electoral registration. [58595]

Mr Harper: The introduction of individual electoral registration will allow the Government to take steps to improve the completeness of the electoral register.

We will make a full announcement about the Government's plans for the implementation of individual electoral registration shortly. We are working with the Electoral Commission to ensure that the move towards individual electoral registration is informed by appropriate evidence. For example, this year we are funding the Electoral Commission to carry out research to provide a robust national measure of completeness and accuracy of the registers. This is because the current data we have on completeness and accuracy are either incomplete or out of date. Further research will be conducted to measure completeness and accuracy both before and after the move to individual electoral registration.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will consider the merits of *(a)* reviewing levels of fines for electoral non-registration, *(b)* fixed penalty notices for electoral non-registration. [58596]

Mr Harper: As I announced in September last year, the Government have no plans to make electoral registration compulsory or to impose fines for non-registration.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will meet representatives of private sector credit reference agencies to discuss research into levels of unregistered voters and private sector involvement in increasing levels of voter registration. [58597]

Mr Harper: The Government are committed to tackling under-registration. The introduction of individual electoral registration will allow us to take steps to improve the completeness of the register, and the Government will publish draft legislation shortly.

My Department will be working with a range of stakeholders to develop the detailed operational policy for individual electoral registration, including ways in which we can tackle under-registration. As part of this work, the Electoral Commission is conducting research into electoral registration levels in a project funded by the Cabinet Office, which will provide a robust estimate of completeness and accuracy.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what information he holds on the electoral registration rates for *(a)* 17 to 24-year-olds, *(b)* private sector tenants and *(c)* members of black and other minority ethnic groups in each of the last five years; and what steps he is taking to improve electoral registration rates in these groups. [58598]

Mr Harper: The Government do not hold this information. The Electoral Commission's March 2010 report on the 'Completeness and Accuracy of Electoral Registers in Great Britain' estimated that under-registration was higher than average among 17 to 24-years-olds (56% not registered); private sector tenants (49%); and black and minority ethnic British residents (31%).

However, the report makes clear that the process of estimating registration rates is an "imprecise science" and says that "all current approaches to estimating the completeness and accuracy of the electoral registers at a national level are imperfect".

The introduction of individual electoral registration will allow the Government to take steps to improve the completeness of the electoral register. This includes funding the Electoral Commission to carry out research to provide a robust national measure of completeness and accuracy of the registers. Further research will be conducted to measure completeness and accuracy both before and after the move to individual electoral registration.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will take steps to engage with hon. Members to increase electoral registration in their constituencies. [58599]

Mr Harper: The Government are committed to doing all they can to improve registration rates in the context of the implementation of individual electoral registration (IER) in Great Britain. We would welcome any input from hon. Members to determine what more can be done to tackle under-registration. We are about to commence pilot schemes in some 22 electoral registration areas to test the effectiveness of data matching in improving the accuracy and completeness of the electoral register. I recently wrote to those hon. Members whose constituencies draw on registers held by those areas to explain in detail what we are doing and why, and to encourage their support, in Parliament and locally, for the pilot scheme that will be running in their constituency.

As we implement IER, we will, of course, work with MPs to ensure they are in a position to encourage electoral registration in their constituencies.

Steve Field

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he has had recent discussions with Professor Steve Field. [59388]

The Deputy Prime Minister: In his capacity as Chair of the NHS Future Forum, I have had a number of recent discussions with Professor Steve Field. Details of my external meetings are published quarterly and can be found on:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

CABINET OFFICE

Steve Field

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what recent meetings officials in his Department have had with Professor Steve Field; [59387]

(2) whether his Department has provided support to Professor Steve Field for the listening exercise. [59389]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has not provided any support to Professor Steve Field in relation to the NHS listening exercise, and no Cabinet Office officials have met with Professor Steve Field.

Taxation: Offshore Industry

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Energy Company Obligation is classified by the Office for National Statistics as tax and spending for national accounts purposes. [58569]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking whether the Energy Company Obligation has been classified by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as tax and spending for national accounts purposes. (58569).

ONS makes classification decisions in line with a published protocol that is available on our website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/national_statistics/cop/downloads/NAclassification.pdf

DECC states (see

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/What%20we%20do/Supporting%20consumers/green_deal/1732-extra-help-where-it-is-needed-a-new-energy-compan.pdf

that the "Energy Company Obligation" is envisaged as a successor to the CERT energy efficiency obligation which finishes at the end of 2012. We understand that the existing legislative basis is being supplemented in the Energy Bill currently before Parliament.

As such, the ECO is a proposed policy, rather than an existing scheme. Paragraphs 31-37 of the classification protocol sets out how ONS deals with policy proposals such as this. ONS does not usually classify proposed schemes unless asked to do so by Government, such requests do not usually arise until a scheme is well developed.

To date ONS has not been asked to provide an indicative classification of the Energy Company Obligation.

Unemployment: Greater London

Lyn Brown: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were registered as actively seeking work in jobcentres in *(a)* London and *(b)* Newham between January and April (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [58731]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were registered as actively seeking work in jobcentres in (a) London and (b) Newham between January and April (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. (58731)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Table 1 shows the number of people resident in (a) London and (b) Newham claiming Jobseeker's Allowance, for each month between January and April for 2010 and 2011.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in (a) London and (b) Newham

	London	*Newham*
2010		
January	225,965	10,229
February	229,114	10,455
March	227,226	10,267
April	222,626	10,171
2011		
January	214,613	10,479
February	219,958	10,642
March	220,857	10,802
April	226,182	11,284

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many repeat abortions there were in women aged *(a)* under 20, *(b)* 20 to 24, *(c)* 25 to 29, *(d)* 30 to 34 and *(e)* 35 years old and over resident in each primary care trust area in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [58530]

Anne Milton: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Ambulance Services: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of NHS ambulances serving the South Lakeland district in each of the last five years. [59327]

Mr Simon Burns: No assessment has been made of the number of national health service ambulances serving the South Lakeland district. The geographical provision of ambulances is a matter for the local NHS to determine in accordance with local demand.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the average ambulance response time in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* South Lakeland district in each of the last five years. [59394]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on average ambulance response times is not collected centrally. Data on performance against ambulance response time targets are collected at ambulance trust level only and are published annually by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care in the statistical bulletin "Ambulance Services England". These documents are available on the NHS Information Centre for health and social care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance

Cancer: Drugs

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the support which patients with rarer cancers are receiving through the Cancer Drugs Fund. [58536]

Mr Simon Burns: We made an additional £50 million available to strategic health authorities in 2010-11 which has already helped over 2,400 cancer patients, including those with rarer cancers, to access treatments not previously available to them on the national health service. The Cancer Drugs Fund, launched on 1 April 2011 will help thousands more cancer patients access the drugs their clinicians believe will help them.

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to prevent regional variation in the operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund. [58537]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department published "Guidance to support operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund in 2011-12" on 23 March 2011. The guidance is intended primarily for strategic health authorities and their clinically-led panels.

A copy of the guidance has already been placed in the Library.

Cancer: Health Services

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated total expenditure from the public purse was on *(a)* cancer care and *(b)* lung cancer care in (i) each primary care trust area, (ii) each cancer network area and (iii) nationally, in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how much of such spending was on (A) in-patient costs excluding those relating to surgery, (B) surgery including daycare and in-patient stays, (C) drugs, cost of medicine preparation and administration, (D) out-patients, diagnostics, first and follow-up appointments, (E) radiotherapy, (F) specialist palliative care, excluding voluntary sector, and (G) other, calculated using the same method as that used to calculate the chart on page 119 of the Department of Health's Cancer Reform Strategy of 3 December 2007. [58708]

Paul Burstow: Tables showing estimated expenditure on cancer care and lung cancer care in England, by each cancer network area and by each primary care trust (PCT), have been placed in the Library.

Information on cancer care has been provided for England and PCTs for the last five years. Information on cancer care has been provided for cancer networks from 2004-05, as this is the first year that the information became available. Information for lung cancer has been provided from 2006-07 as this is the first year that data were collected at sub-category level for a number of tumour types.

The information requested at A to G is not routinely available. The estimated total national health service spend on cancer care represented in the graph on page 119 of the "Cancer Reform Strategy" was an analysis commissioned specifically for inclusion in the Strategy. It was based on a wide range of data from 2005-06, and the sources of these data are quoted in the Strategy. An estimated NHS spend on cancer care under the same categories of that graph is not available for any other years, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Care Homes

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of *(a)* residential care places provided by Southern Cross and *(b)* vacant places in other provision in each local authority area. [59391]

Paul Burstow: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) collects data on the total numbers of care home places as part of its work to register all care homes in England.

A table showing total numbers of care home places and numbers of places in Southern Cross homes in each local authority area has been placed in the Library.

Neither the Department nor the CQC collects occupancy or vacancy information. However, the health and social care analysts, Laing and Buisson, report that vacancy levels in care homes average 10-11% in England.

Care Homes: Standards

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many vulnerable people with learning disabilities were placed in locked wards in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [58281]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Care Quality Commission's response to information given to it about the care of patients at Winterbourne View; [58602]

(3) what steps he plans to take to ensure that care homes and hospitals are more open to public scrutiny; [58603]

(4) what steps he plans to take to ensure that the staff in care homes and hospitals have a positive attitude towards people with learning disabilities and complex needs; [58604]

(5) if he will take steps to ensure the high quality care of vulnerable people in privately-run homes and hospitals; [58605]

(6) what steps he plans to take to prevent a recurrence of events at Winterbourne View; [58606]

(7) what steps he plans to take to ensure that the Care Quality Commission effectively monitors care quality for learning disabled and other vulnerable groups; [58607]

(8) what steps he plans to take in relation to the company responsible for the operation of Winterbourne View. [58608]

Paul Burstow: The Government keep information about the total number of patients detained under the Mental Health Act but this information is not disaggregated according to condition or placement. The NHS Information Centre routinely collects information about people who are deprived of liberty under the Mental Capacity Act but this information is not disaggregated according to specific condition or placement. This information can be accessed at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/mental-health/mental-health-act

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) will shortly start a three-month inspection of the 150 hospitals which care for people with learning disabilities, and this will include unannounced inspections. That is in addition the CQC inspection of the other 22 hospitals run by Castlebeck.

I also refer the hon. Member to the comprehensive written ministerial statement issued on 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 13-15WS. This sets out the facts of the case and the actions that have been taken by all agencies including the Department.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure GP surgeries offer more flexible opening hours for the purposes of increasing the take-up of cervical screening. [59140]

Mr Simon Burns: From April this year, in agreement with the General Practitioners Committee of the British Medical Association, we have amended the existing Directed Enhanced Service arrangements to provide practices with additional flexibilities for them to offer patients appointments at more convenient times to see a general practitioner or nurse within their practice. It is therefore now a matter for practices to consider and respond to meet their patients' expectations to be able to see a health care professional in their practice outside of normal opening hours.

Crown Relocations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts his Department holds with Crown Relocations; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value is of each such contract. [58643]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not currently hold any contracts with Crown Relocations.

Dental Services: Conditions of Employment

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to ensure dentists comply with the terms of their NHS contracts. [59266]

Mr Simon Burns: Primary care dentistry is commissioned by primary care trusts (PCTs) to meet the needs of the local population. PCTs commission dental contract holders to provide services as required. Those who choose to hold national health service dental contracts are, together with anyone else working on the contract; legally obliged to comply with its terms. Should a breach of contract occur there are sanctions open to the commissioner including, in certain circumstances, termination of the contract.

Departmental Manpower

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers were employed by his Department in each financial year from 1997-98 to 2010-11; and what the cost to the public purse was of such appointments in (i) cash and (ii) real terms in each year. [59468]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government are committed to publishing, on a quarterly basis, details of special advisers and their cost. The most recent information was published on 10 March 2011 and can be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

along with information published on 10 June and 28 October 2010.

From 2004-09 the numbers and cost of special advisers were published annually in the form of a written ministerial statement by the Prime Minister.

Information for press officer numbers from 1997-98 to 2010-11 can be found in the following table:

Financial year	*Number of staff*	*Cost (£ million)*
2010-11	33.73	1.371
2009-10	36.2	1.308
2008-09	31	1.300
2007-08	28	1.369
2006-07	26	1.765
2005-06	30	1.772
2004-05	30	1.471
2003-04	26	1.284
2002-03	24	1.077
2001-02	22	1.279
2000-01	22	1.233
1999-2000	21	1.253
1998-99	15	1.122
1997-98	15	1.062

Departmental Procurement Cards

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Government Procurement Cards were used by his Department in each financial year from 1997-98 to 2010-11; and what transactions were made on Government Procurement Cards used by his Department including *(a)* the name of the supplier, *(b)* the date of each transaction and *(c)* the value of each transaction in each such year. [59384]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is contained in the document entitled 'Information on the number of Government Procurement Cards used by the Department of Health since May 2008 and the date, value and supplier for each transaction'. A copy has been placed in the Library.

The information is not available prior to May 2008 because this is when the Department's reporting database tool used to extract the information was set up. Attempting to provide information prior to May 2008 would mean sifting through individual cardholder paper files and extracting the information manually, which would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 674-78W, on research, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the termination of collection of certain datasets on the ability of Ministers and officials in his Department to *(a)* respond to questions for oral and written answer and *(b)* meet the requirements of other forms of parliamentary scrutiny; and whether any savings have accrued from the termination of collection of such data. [58311]

Mr Simon Burns: The collection of data from the national health service is regulated by the process called review of central returns (ROCR) administered on behalf of the Department by the NHS Information Centre. This process was started by the previous Administration and continues under this Government. The ROCR process supports Government policy to minimise the burden to the NHS of central data collections. It ensures that collections fit with national health policies in England, requests for the same information are not repeated and NHS organisations can complete returns in as little time as possible. Information is collected for a number of purposes, notably accountability to Parliament, performance management of the NHS and informing policy developments.

Proposed new collections are subject to ROCR approval, and it is equally important to review all existing data collections to ensure the overall burden is minimised.

The Government made a commitment in the White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" to

> "...initiate a fundamental review of data returns, with the aim of culling returns of limited value. This will ensure that the NHS information revolution...is fuelled by data that are meaningful to patients and clinicians when making decisions about care, rather than by what has been collected historically."

This review has taken place and detailed findings will shortly be presented in a full public consultation that will lay out the recommendations for the data returns covered by the review, together with an impact assessment. Responses to the consultation will be incorporated into a full Government response.

Total estimated annual costs of the data collections that were discontinued during the period May 2010 to April 2011 were £5.8 million.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 674-8W, on research, for what reason data collection on *(a)* three-year funding for third sector organisations, *(b)* 18-week referral to treatment, *(c)* swine flu vaccine uptake from GP-registered patients, *(d)* NHS staff engagement and attitudes towards the NHS, *(e)* National Children's Health Service mapping, *(f)* monitoring of extended GP practice opening hours, *(g)* GP premises data and *(h)* junior doctors' hours has been terminated; whom he consulted on the termination of data collection in each case; and whether any savings have accrued from each such termination. [58312]

Mr Simon Burns: As part of the Department's arrangements to keep the burden of data collection under control, all these returns were due for routine review or renewal in the period and no strong case could be made for retention. For some this reflected the intrinsically temporary nature of the original case. Others had been needed to monitor specific targets and policies that were no longer relevant. In the case of 18-week referral to treatment, the main return on which published national statistics are based has been retained but a subsidiary Patient Tracking List return designed to support detailed performance management is no longer centrally needed.

None of these data collections were needed to support national statistics or other high profile official statistics publications so no formal consultation was undertaken, but they will be included in the forthcoming consultation on the Department's Fundamental Review of Data Returns for completeness. In one case (National Children's Health Service mapping) the decision to discontinue followed an independent review involving stakeholders.

Estimated annual collection costs to the national health service of these eight collections were £4.6 million.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 674-8W, on research, for what reason data collection on practices' engagement in practice-based commissioning has been terminated. [58314]

Mr Simon Burns: The policy of practice-based commissioning was established under the previous Government and is being discontinued. The monitoring of practice engagement with this policy is therefore no longer appropriate.

Diabetes: Eyesight

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent representations his Department has received on patient access to appropriate treatment for diabetic macular oedema; [58723]

(2) what policies his Department has in place to encourage *(a)* public awareness, *(b)* detection and *(c)* appropriate treatment of diabetic macular oedema. [58724]

Mr Simon Burns: We are not aware of any such representations being received.

Diabetic macular oedema is a complication of diabetic retinopathy. All people with diabetes should be offered annual screening for diabetic retinopathy. Patients thought to have diabetic retinopathy will be referred to a specialist ophthalmologist for confirmation of the presence of the disease and treatment offered, if it is appropriate to do so.

Primary care trusts are responsible for commissioning health services in their areas to meet the needs of their local populations.

Disease Control

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to prevent the spread of antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria. [59112]

Mr Simon Burns: There is no simple solution to controlling antibiotic resistance. Appropriate prescribing to slow the emergence of resistant strains, good microbiological practice and surveillance to ensure detection and high standards of infection prevention and control practice, are all key steps to prevent the spread of these bacteria.

"The Health and Social Care Act 2008 Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance" provides guidance. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

All organisations, including primary care, will use a number of specific measures to tackle antibiotic resistance. These measures include the use of antibiotic stewardship programmes to minimise the unnecessary use of antibiotics and thus reduce the selection pressure for resistance to develop accurate and prompt detection of resistant strains of bacteria and methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus screening to reduce the risk of onwards transmission in hospitals and other settings. The Department's expert Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) undertakes ongoing horizon scanning and advises on emerging problems: for example the committee recently issued guidance with the Health Protection Agency on the control of newer highly resistant carbapenemase producing bacteria such as those with New Delhi Metallo Beta Lactamase. The Department and ARHAI also actively promote good antibiotic prescribing.

Drugs: Misuse

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials in his Department were working on implementing the 2010 Drugs Strategy in each month since January 2011; and how many officials he expects to be working on implementing the strategy in each year to 2013. [58546]

Anne Milton: The structure chart for the Department for June 2010 is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_120567.pdf

An updated structure chart is currently being prepared for publication.

Under the deputy director for alcohol and drugs, there are currently 7.4 whole time equivalent posts allocated to drugs issues. Additional staff elsewhere in the Department are working on FRANK, the creation of Public Health England and international collaboration.

E. coli

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the UK Border Agency on the screening of imports of fruit and vegetables in the light of the recent E.coli outbreak in Germany. [59476]

Anne Milton: We are advised by the Food Standards Agency that the UK Border Agency does not have responsibility for the screening of fruit and vegetables for food safety purposes.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is closely monitoring the E. coli outbreak that is centred in Germany to assess and deal with any risks to United Kingdom consumers. There is no evidence that contaminated products related to the outbreak have entered the UK food chain. The cases of illness reported in the UK and linked to this outbreak involve people who have recently travelled to Germany. The Health Protection Agency has advised clinicians to be alert to the symptoms of E. coli infection.

Should the FSA suspect that contaminated products associated with this outbreak have entered the UK, immediate action would be taken to alert consumers, withdraw food from the shops and ban further shipments.

Food: Genetically Modified Organisms

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent reports he has received on the discovery in the human blood stream of Bt pesticide derived from genetically-modified components attributable to the consumption of meat and dairy from animals fed on genetically-modified feed. [58618]

Anne Milton: In the European Union, genetically modified (GM) foods undergo a rigorous pre-market evaluation that includes the safety of components introduced into GM crops, such as Bt proteins. The safety of Bt proteins has also been assessed during the authorisation of pesticides that contain the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*. The assessment of the Bt proteins that are present in authorised GM foods is based on tests in animals and does not include human trials to examine whether the proteins pass into the blood supply. However, the available data from in vitro tests have shown that Bt proteins are rapidly broken down by digestive enzymes in the same way as most other proteins in the diet.

A Canadian publication has recently suggested that small amounts of one Bt protein may be present in human blood, at around one part per billion, although it is not clear whether the analytical methods that were used in this study were suitable for identifying and quantifying such low levels in human samples. If the finding is correct, the design of this study did not provide any evidence of the source of the protein, which is present in commercial pesticide preparations as well as in some GM crop varieties. The detection of trace levels of Bt proteins in people does not necessarily imply any risk to health.

G4S

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts his Department holds with G4S; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value is of each such contract. [58674]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not currently hold any contracts with G4S.

Health Services: Older People

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what response his Department has made to the findings of the report of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman, on Care and Compassion, HC 778. [59097]

Paul Burstow: We asked the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to implement a series of unannounced nurse led inspections into elderly care on national health service wards. The findings of the first 12 reports of the inspections into dignity and nutrition for older people were published on 26 May 2011 and a further 14 reports were also published on 9 June 2011. A national report into the findings of the programme will be published in September.

On 15 February 2011, the chief executive of the NHS and the National Clinical Director for Older People wrote to all NHS Boards highlighting the Ombudsman's report and urging them to assure themselves that these events are not happening in their own organisations.

Subject to parliamentary approval, the Health and Social Care Bill will also provide for the creation of local HealthWatch organisations to hold services to account, and enable the CQC to use its enforcement powers to ensure that real improvements are made.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS was of NHS treatments administered to visitors from overseas in the last year for which figures are available. [58244]

Anne Milton: The total audited figures on total losses, bad debt and claims abandoned for overseas visitors who were charged for national health service hospital treatment for 2009-10, for which figures are available for England, are shown in the following table. However, data are not available on the cost to the NHS of administering hospital treatment to overseas visitors who are exempt from charge under the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended.

Bad debts and claims abandoned in respect of overseas patients

	£
2009-10	6,967,780

Note:
We do not collect data from NHS foundation trusts so figures exclude these sites.
Source:
NHS Trust Audited Summarisation Schedules.

Health Services: Sign Language

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the merits of providing *(a)* interpreters and *(b)* video relay services for users of British Sign Language to access health services. [58249]

Paul Burstow: It is for local national health service organisations to make appropriate assessment and provision for users of British Sign Language to access health services appropriately.

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision the NHS makes for users of British Sign Language to contact local NHS services. [58250]

Paul Burstow: National health service organisations must assure themselves that they have complied with the Equality Act 2010. This includes advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic, including a disability such as hearing loss, and those who do not. Advancing equality involves, for example, taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.

It would be for local NHS organisations to make appropriate provision for users of British Sign Language such as establishing contacts with interpreters and voluntary organisations as needed and ensuring that such interpreters have the necessary qualifications and expertise for the purpose they are required.

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision his Department makes for users of British Sign Language to access health services. [58251]

Paul Burstow: The Department is committed to making sure that all the information we publish uses language that is appropriate to the intended audience, and to making sure that information is available in accessible formats, and via accessible methods.

It is up to individual national health service organisations to decide how they comply with the Equality Act 2010. However, the NHS Equality and Diversity Council, chaired by Sir David Nicholson, NHS chief executive, has a strategic role to support the NHS to deliver better outcomes for patients, comply with the Equality Act 2010 and ensure services and work places are personal, fair and diverse with equality of opportunity and treatment for all.

Hospitals: Crimes of Violence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in how many recorded incidents of violence against hospital staff irresponsible alcohol consumption was a contributory factor in each of the last five years. [59025]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

IBM

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts his Department holds with IBM; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value is of each such contract. [58687]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department currently holds one contract with IBM for software licensing support and maintenance. The total contract value is £2,834,346.

Leukaemia: Medical Treatments

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the availability of treatments for chronic myeloid leukaemia; and what discussions his Department has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence about the clinical effectiveness of dasatinib and nilotinib. [58288]

Paul Burstow: A number of treatments are available for the treatment of chronic myeloid leukaemia.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is an independent body and we have had no discussions with the institute about its appraisals of dasatinib and nilotinib for the treatment of chronic myeloid leukaemia.

Lung Cancer

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients aged *(a)* 49 years and under, *(b)* 50 to 59 years, *(c)* 60 to 69 years, *(d)* 70 to 79 years and *(e)* 80 years and over have received (i) chemotherapy, (ii) radiotherapy and (iii) surgery for lung cancer (A) by each provider, (B) from each primary care trust, (C) in each cancer network and (D) in total in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [58709]

Paul Burstow: Tables showing the number of patients aged 49 years and under, 50 to 59 years, 60 to 69 years, 70 to 79 years and 80 years and over who have received surgery for lung cancer, presented by each provider, each primary care trust (PCT) and in total have been placed in the Library. It should be noted that these data should not be described as a count of people as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion.

This information is not available at cancer network level. This information has been provided for the period 2005-06 to 2009-10, and PCT data have been presented separately for 2005-06 due to the re-configuration of PCTs in 2006-07.

Hospital episode statistics (HES) are unable to provide chemotherapy data for lung cancer treatment. It is not possible to classify chemotherapy for specific cancers without being provided with exact chemotherapy regimen names. A chemotherapy dataset is in development that will provide a more detailed picture of chemotherapy treatments in the national health service in the future.

HES are unable to provide radiotherapy data in the format requested. The vast majority of radiotherapy treatment is delivered in an out-patient setting, and the collection of out-patient procedure data are not currently mandated. The National Radiotherapy Dataset project team is working with providers to improve collection of radiotherapy data. A report on the development of the dataset is expected shortly.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of bed occupancy for patients with lung cancer as a proportion of all cancers in *(a)* England, *(b)* each cancer network and *(c)* each primary care trust area in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [58710]

Paul Burstow: Tables showing bed occupancy for patients with lung cancer as a proportion of all cancers in England and in each primary care trust (PCT) area have been placed in the Library.

This information is not available at cancer network level. This information has been provided for the period 2005-06 to 2009-10, and PCT data have been presented separately for 2005-06 due to the re-configuration of PCTs in 2006-07.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* elective and *(b)* emergency bed days were accounted for by lung cancer patients in England in each (i) primary care trust area in each financial year since 1997-98 and (ii) cancer network area; and what the overall cost to the public purse of such treatment was in each such year. [58711]

Paul Burstow: Tables showing the count of finished consultant episode (FCE) bed days where the primary diagnosis was lung cancer, separated into emergency and elective admissions and split by primary care trust responsibility, for the years 1997-08 to 2009-10 have been placed in the Library.

FCE bed day data are not available at cancer network level. Information on the cost of bed days is not available centrally.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average length of stay was for patients admitted with a diagnosis of lung cancer for *(a)* elective admissions and *(b)* emergency admissions in each (i) primary care trust area, (ii) cancer network area and (iii) in England in each year since 1997-98. [58712]

Paul Burstow: Tables showing the average length of stay for patients admitted with a diagnosis of lung cancer by elective admission and emergency admission in each primary care trust area and in England in each year since 1997-98 have been placed in the Library. This information is not available at cancer network level.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of lung cancer cases were diagnosed through the *(a)* non-urgent referral route and *(b)* urgent referral route in (i) England, (ii) each cancer network area and (iii) each primary care trust area in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [58713]

Paul Burstow: These data are not available in the format requested. For the most recent period for which statistics are available (Quarter 4 2010-11) 61,197 persons received first definitive treatment for cancer. Of these, 25,834 or 42.2% were urgently referred for suspected cancer by their general practitioner (GP).

In the same period, there were 10,445 urgent GP referrals for suspected lung cancer, and 97.7% of these patients were seen by a specialist within 14 days.

Medical Equipment: Counterfeit Manufacturing

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 853W, on medical equipment: counterfeit manufacturing, if he will place in the Library a copy of the medical devices alert issued by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency requesting the withdrawal of the counterfeit devices in question; and by what means the alert was transmitted to all NHS trusts; [58297]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 853W, on medical equipment: counterfeit manufacturing, how many of the high volume consumable devices found to have reached the NHS supply chain in 2009 were distributed; [58298]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 853W, on medical equipment: counterfeit manufacturing, what the *(a)* type and *(b)* make is of each counterfeit medical device found to have reached the NHS supply chain in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2011; [58299]

(4) whether the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency received information in *(a)* January and *(b)* March 2011 about the safety of a counterfeit pulse oximeter sensor found in use in a hospital; [58440]

(5) what progress has been made in the investigation into the counterfeit pulse oximeter sensors found in hospitals within the last year. [58441]

Mr Simon Burns: A copy of the medical devices alert on counterfeit pulse oximeter sensors has been placed in the Library. This alert was originally disseminated to national health service trusts through the NHS central alerting system which brings together the chief medical officer's public health link and the safety alert broadcast system. The central alerting system enables alerts and patient safety specific guidance issued by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the National Patient Safety Agency to be accessed at any time.

All of the counterfeit high volume consumable devices found in the NHS supply chain in 2009 were distributed.

The 110,000 counterfeit devices found in 2009 were single use needles for the delivery of insulin. In 2011, 300 counterfeit pulse oximeter sensors and six packs of counterfeit condoms were found in the NHS supply chain.

MHRA received information in January and March 2011 about the safety of a counterfeit pulse oximeter sensor found in use in a hospital. I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 666W, for details of the subsequent investigation which is still continuing and the action taken.

NHS: Drugs

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what procedures are in place for the monitoring by his Department of the supply to pharmacies of medicines by pharmaceutical wholesalers; [58291]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1305W, on NHS: drugs, what data his Department uses to monitor the supply of medicines; [58398]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1305W, on NHS: drugs, by what means his Department analyses data to assess whether patients are harmed by delays in the supply of medicines. [58399]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department receives regular reports of supply problems from wholesalers, manufacturers, pharmacy organisations and patients. These reports are assessed on the basis of appropriate expert advice. Through the Medicines Supply Chain Group, the Department encourages feedback about shortages that could be causing harm to patients.

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to issue the Government's response to the Value Based Pricing consultation. [58535]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the right hon. Member for Oxford East (Mr Smith) on 17 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 173-74W.

NHS: Finance

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the level of additional resources which would be required in order to increase the NHS budget in line with the most recent Bank of England median consumer prices index inflation forecast for 2011-12. [59381]

Mr Simon Burns: It is not appropriate to calculate growth in national health service spending using Bank of England mean consumer prices index (CPI). CPI measures only consumer prices.

NHS spending comprises a significant proportion of gross domestic product (GDP). Hence, the GDP deflator is used to calculate growth in NHS spending, since the GDP deflator reflects the prices of all domestically-produced goods and services in the economy.

This approach is consistent with that taken by the previous Administration.

NHS: Working Hours

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the European Working Time Directive on NHS acute and medical services; and if he will make a statement. [58284]

Mr Simon Burns: It is the responsibility of individual national health service trusts to ensure service rotas are compliant and assess the effects of the Working Time Directive's (WTD) implementation.

In line with the Government's coalition agreement to reduce duplication and resources spent on administration, the Department reduced bureaucracy for the service by removing the burden of central monitoring of compliance, leaving this role to organisations at a local level.

This Government committed in the coalition agreement to limit the application of the WTD in the UK.

The Department of Health and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills are working closely together to achieve greater flexibility in the application of the WTD to the health care sector. This Government are committed to the retention of the opt-out. The opt-out gives people flexibility and choice over their working hours.

Palliative Care

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of how many NHS hospital trusts use the Liverpool Care Pathway for the Dying Patient for end of life care. [58592]

Paul Burstow: The Liverpool Care Pathway (LCP) was developed by the Marie Curie Palliative Care Institute in Liverpool. The Department does not collect information centrally on the number of hospitals or the number of wards in those hospitals who use the LCP as a possible option for treating patients. The latest information, published in December 2009, is available from the LCP website at:

www.mcpcil.org.uk/liverpool-care-pathway/index.htm

Patients: Nutrition

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to include questions on a patient's nutritional status in future surveys intended to measure progress on the patient experience domain of the NHS Outcomes Framework. [59143]

Mr Simon Burns: The national patient survey programme exists to gain feedback on experience of national health service services from the point of view of patients, rather than to audit hospital processes. The recent adult in-patient survey contained questions on how patients rated hospital food, whether they were offered a choice of food and if they got enough help from staff to eat meals. However it would not be an appropriate mechanism to collect data on patients' actual nutritional status.

One of the most effective ways of tracking nutritional status in patients at risk is to measure their weight. Data on whether patients were weighed, changes in weight and any action taken are recorded in patient records, and are not collected nationally.

Pharmacy

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency follows to monitor pharmaceutical wholesalers. [58292]

Mr Simon Burns: Persons that supply medicines for human use, by way of wholesale distribution for use in the United Kingdom or another member state of the European economic area, are required to hold a wholesale distribution authorisation.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) routinely conducts inspections of the facilities of holders of such authorisations following a risk-based approach, to confirm compliance with United Kingdom medicines regulations and the European Commission's guideline on good distribution practice.

Holders of wholesale distribution authorisations who fail to comply with statutory requirements may be subject to formal action by the MHRA in order to protect public health. This can include suspension or revocation of their wholesale distribution authorisations.

Prostate Cancer: Health Services

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made in implementing the national clinical audit of prostate cancer. [58554]

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in implementing the national clinical audit of prostate cancer. [58717]

Paul Burstow: We are committed to extending national clinical audit to a wider range of conditions to stimulate local improvements in the quality and outcomes of care and we will make an announcement about new topics shortly.

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has made in developing a prostate cancer quality standard; and if he will make a statement. [58719]

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence plans to develop a prostate cancer quality standard. [58296]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has been commissioned to produce a quality standard for prostate cancer during the period 2011-12. NICE provides progress updates on its quality standard programme on its website:

www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/qualitystandards/qualitystandards.jsp

Sativex

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information he holds on the number of primary care trusts that consider Sativex to be a low priority for funding; [58403]

(2) how many primary care trusts have prescribed Sativex since August 2010; and in what quantity in each case. [58404]

Mr Simon Burns: Local funding priorities are a matter for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), and information on PCT policies on Sativex is not held centrally.

Between August 2010 and March 2011, 128 out of 152 PCTs issued prescriptions for Sativex or its single generic alternative, delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, that were dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom. The issuing PCTs and associated number of prescription items are shown in the table.

Number of prescription items for Sativex or its generic alternative that were prescribed in England and dispensed in the community in the UK by PCT—August 2010 to March 2011

PCT	*Number of items*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	[1]—
Barking and Dagenham	[1]—
Barnet	[1]—
Bath and North East Somerset	[1]—
Bedfordshire	11
Berkshire East	13
Berkshire West	51
Bexley Care Trust	25
Birmingham East and North	[1]—
Blackburn with Darwen CTP	[1]—
Blackpool	9
Bolton	[1]—
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching	8
Brighton and Hove City	18
Bristol	[1]—
Bromley	[1]—
Buckinghamshire	27
Bury	[1]—
Calderdale	20
Cambridgeshire	18
Camden	[1]—
Central and Eastern Cheshire	11
Central Lancashire	22
City and Hackney Teaching	[1]—
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	8
County Durham	34
Coventry Teaching	9
Croydon	18
Cumbria Teaching	68
Derby City	[1]—
Derbyshire County	9
Devon	42
Dorset	25
Dudley	9
Ealing	12

Number of prescription items for Sativex or its generic alternative that were prescribed in England and dispensed in the community in the UK by PCT—August 2010 to March 2011

PCT	*Number of items*
East Lancashire Teaching	6
East Riding of Yorkshire	23
East Sussex Downs and Weald	10
Eastern and Coastal Kent	33
Enfield	[1]—
Gloucestershire	16
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	21
Greenwich Teaching	17
Halton and St Helens	[1]—
Hammersmith and Fulham	8
Hampshire	70
Haringey Teaching	6
Hastings and Rother	10
Heart of Birmingham	[1]—
Herefordshire	19
Hertfordshire	26
Hillingdon	[1]—
Hounslow	[1]—
Hull Teaching	6
Isle of Wight NHS	[1]—
Islington	22
Kensington and Chelsea	18
Kingston	[1]—
Knowsley	6
Lambeth	10
Leeds	6
Leicester City	[1]—
Leicestershire County and Rutland	[1]—
Lewisham	[1]—
Lincolnshire	28
Liverpool	[1]—
Luton	13
Manchester	22
Mid Essex	11
Milton Keynes	6
Newcastle	[1]—
Newham	[1]—
Norfolk	26
North East Essex	9
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	[1]—
North Lancashire Teaching	47
North Lincolnshire	7
North Staffordshire	12
North Tyneside	[1]—
North Yorkshire and York	19
Northamptonshire Teaching	62
Northumberland Care Trust	36
Nottingham City	11
Nottinghamshire County Teaching	22
Oldham	[1]—
Oxfordshire	16
Plymouth Teaching	[1]—
Portsmouth City Teaching	18
Red bridge	[1]—
Redcar and Cleveland	[1]—
Richmond and Twickenham	[1]—
Sandwell	17
Sefton	4
Sheffield	12
Shropshire County	9
Solihull	6
Somerset	[1]—
South Birmingham	22
South East Essex	26
South Gloucestershire	[1]—
South Staffordshire	30
South Tyneside	12
South West Essex	13
Southampton City	[1]—
Southwark	[1]—
Stockport	[1]—
Stoke on Trent	[1]—
Suffolk	28
Sunderland Teaching	[1]—
Surrey	82
Sutton and Merton	6
Telford and Wrekin	17
Torbay Care Trust	9
Tower Hamlets	6
Trafford	[1]—
Walsall Teaching	7
Waltham Forest	[1]—
Wandsworth Teaching	[1]—
Warrington	[1]—
Warwickshire	11
West Essex	[1]—
West Kent	81
West Sussex	61
Western Cheshire	[1]—
Wiltshire	8
Wirral	16
Wolverhampton City	15
Worcestershire	12
England Total	1,798

[1] Five or fewer prescription items dispensed.

Source:

Prescribing Analysis and CosT tool (PACT) system.

Serco

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts his Department holds with Serco; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value is of each such contract. [58664]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department currently holds one contract with Serco for the provision of financial and due diligence services to national health service trusts preparing business cases to become NHS foundation trusts. The value of payments to date under this contract amounts to £370,486.24.

Southern Cross Healthcare

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure the continuation of care for residents of Southern Cross care homes in Weaver Vale constituency. [58379]

Paul Burstow: Southern Cross has plans in place to restructure its business and is discussing the matter with departmental officials.

The Department is being very clear with the company that we expect it to maintain service continuity and quality of care while the restructuring process is ongoing. Our principal concern is for the safety and well-being of the residents of care homes that might be affected. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) will pay particular attention to any care homes where there is a concern that quality may be at risk or inadequate.

The Government are talking to the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the Local Government Association and the CQC to ensure that contingency plans are in place which will allow for the continuation of care under any eventuality. We will continue to keep in close touch with the situation and will work with local authorities, the CQC and others to ensure there is an effective response, which delivers protection to everyone affected.

I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 16-17WS.

Surgery: Private Sector

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 71-2W, on surgery: private sector, how much his Department paid in total to private sector providers of finished consultant episodes involving an operative procedure in each year since 2000-01; [58924]

(2) how much his Department paid in total to private sector providers of finished consultant episodes for operations that were not carried out in each year since 2000-01; [58925]

(3) what the target was for finished consultant episodes with an operative procedure undertaken by private sector providers in each year since 2000-01. [59189]

Mr Simon Burns: Table 1 shows the expenditure by national health service commissioners (primary care trusts) in England on the purchase of NHS treatment from non-NHS providers for the financial years 2006-07 to 2009-10 (the latest figures available). For each year expenditure on each provider category is expressed as a proportion (%) of total NHS revenue expenditure, with totals in the final row.

Data were not collected on expenditure between different sector providers (which included voluntary and local authority) prior to 2006-07. This expenditure relates to a range of services/treatments and is not disaggregated to identify the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) involving an operative procedure.

Table 1: Expenditure by primary care trusts on the purchase of healthcare from non-NHS bodies 2006-07 to 2009-10

	2006-07		*2007-08*		*2008-09*		*2009-10*	
Spend with:	*£ million*	*%*	*£ million*	*%*	*£ million*	*%*	*£ million*	*%*
Independent sector treatment centres	200	0.3	314	0.4	352	0.4	373	0.4
Other private sector providers	1,992	2.5	2,602	3.0	3,066	3.4	3,766	3.9
Total	2,192	2.8	7,916	3.4	3,418	3.8	4,139	4.3

Source:
Audited PCT summarisation schedules 2006-07 to 2009-10

The 'other private sector' providers in Table 1 provide health care which is usually charged at NHS tariff with no payment or volume guarantees.

Independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) undertake a variety of activity including elective treatment, diagnostics, screening and walk in centres under contract and have payment and/or volume guarantees.

Table 2 sets out the total paid to ISTC providers for elective care activity and excludes schemes for purely diagnostic or primary care activity (i.e. as a close approximation to FCEs). The amount paid to the provider includes the guaranteed amount plus any other activity charge under the contract and is measured against the value of procedures performed.

Table 2: Centrally procured IS activity: Total value paid to provider, ISTC, GSUP (waiting list initiative), OC123 (mobile ophthalmology) excluding diagnostic and renal schemes

	Wave 1[1]			*Phase 2*[2]			*Total*	
Financial year	*Value paid*	*Activity value*	*Utilisation (%)*	*Value paid*	*Activity value*	*Utilisation (%)*	*Value paid*	*Activity value*
2003-04	3,550,722	1,773,249	50	—	—	—	3,550,722	1,773,249
2004-05	76,149,053	71,674,630	94	—	—	—	76,149,053	71,674,630
2005-06	180,438,057	151,962,618	84	—	—	—	180,438,057	151,962,618
2006-07	190,146,718	160,681,667	85	—	—	—	190,146,718	160,681,667
2007-08	250,432,639	211,212,185	84	12,241,300	9,657,462	79	262,673,938	220,869,647
2008-09	279,035,991	240,198,169	86	50,756,214	44,702,872	88	329,792,205	284,901,042
2009-10	290,308,969	255,383,669	88	104,429,810	80,853,135	77	394,738,779	336,236,805
2010-11	212,246,123	204,755,883	96	134,704,555	119,458,031	89	346,950,678	324,213,914
	1,482,308,272	1,297,642,070	88	302,131,879	254,671,500	84	1,784,440,151	1,552,313,571

[1] Excludes diagnostics, CWiCs. Includes contracts in total where activity is primarily elective care.

[2] Excludes diagnostics, renal. Includes contracts in total where activity is primarily elective care.

Notes:
1. Wave 1 contracts were first signed in 2003.
2. Value of procedures performed is for is the monetary value of procedures performed under the pricing formula in the ISTC contract. Procedures covers out-patient assessments, elective procedures, diagnostic activity, walk-in/minor injury episodes and renal dialysis.
3. 'Paid to provider' is the guarantee amount plus any other activity charge under the contract.

Telemedicine

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the findings of the Whole Systems Demonstrator programme; and if he will make a statement; [58551]

(2) whether he has any plans to publish findings from the Whole Systems Demonstrator programme; and if he will make a statement; [58552]

(3) whether he has any plans to implement steps arising from findings of the Whole Systems Demonstrator programme; and if he will make a statement. [58553]

Paul Burstow: The Whole System Demonstrator programme is one of the most complex studies the Department has undertaken. With over 6,000 people involved there has been a considerable amount of data produced which is currently undergoing detailed analysis. As soon as that analysis is completed, the results will be made public and the Department can assess what further action is appropriate.

Westmorland Hospital

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* in-patients and *(b)* out-patients were treated at Westmorland general hospital in each of the last 10 years. [59455]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. Information on the number of finished consultant episodes and out-patient attendances at the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust is shown in the following table.

	Finished consultant in-patient episodes[1]	*Out-patient attendances*[2]
2000-01	76,010	n/a
2001-02	78,313	n/a
2002-03	82,310	n/a
2003-04	78,585	283,957
2004-05	79,534	239,966
2005-06	77,298	354,382
2006-07	85,017	400,156
2007-08	95,276	407,956
2008-09	100,168	422,219
2009-10	102,125	436,660

[1] A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

[2] Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) contains records of all out-patient appointments, whether these are attended or not, or cancelled by either the hospital or the patient. For the purposes of this report, only attended appointments have been included. It should be noted that it is possible for an out-patient to have and attend more than one appointment in any given year, so this figure does not represent the total number of patients seen. Out-patient data are only available from 2003-04 onwards.

Source:

(HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on requiring asylum seekers to move location while their applications for asylum are being processed. [58458]

Damian Green *[holding answer 9 June 2011]:* In circumstances that asylum seekers are moved from supported accommodation to an alternative provider as their applications are being considered, the move must be necessary, reasonable and proportionate. In these circumstances, the UK Border Agency will write to notify the individual affected and provide them with the opportunity to offer information that may inform the relocation arrangements. In a recent exercise involving the expiry of a number of accommodation contracts across the UK Border Agency, re-housing proposals which necessitate a change of schooling proceed only with the approval of the relevant regional director in the UK Border Agency.

Asylum: Human Rights

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications were made by asylum seekers under Article 8 of Schedule 1 of the Human Rights Act 1998 in each year since 2000. [58468]

Damian Green *[holding answer 9 June 2011]:* The information is not available. The United Kingdom Border Agency's Case Information Database does not record whether Article 8 has been raised in an asylum seeker's claim and the requested information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost through the examination of a large number of individual case files.

Departmental CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many CCTV cameras are installed in and around her Department's premises; and how much such cameras *(a)* cost to install and *(b)* cost to operate in the latest period for which figures are available. [56844]

James Brokenshire: Central records of CCTV installations are not held, and therefore it is not possible to provide a definitive response. However, the following information can be confirmed.

CCTV cameras at the Home Office's building at 2 Marsham street, London, are provided within the overall development where the installations and operating costs are met by the PFI operator, the details of which are not held by the Department.

The UK Border Agency estate has approximately 3,000 CCTV cameras with an average installation cost of £2,000 per camera with annual maintenance costs of approximately £250 per camera.

The Identity and Passport Service estate has approximately 400 CCTV cameras. The costs are not held centrally.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56108]

Damian Green: The only expenditure incurred by the Home Office on special advisers' travel is when they accompany the Home Secretary on official business. No expense claims have been submitted for personal travel.

Domestic Violence

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Government's policy is on signing the Council of Europe convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. [58883]

James Brokenshire: We are supportive of the work of the Council of Europe in raising awareness of violence against women and girls and supported the efforts to agree a strong convention. However there are a number of articles on which we require more detailed consideration before a final decision can be made on the signature and ratification of the convention.

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department provided to support victims of domestic violence in the latest period for which figures are available. [58416]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has committed over £28 million of funding for specialist services to tackle violence against women and girls from 2011-12 to 2014-15.

Over £4 million has been committed to support domestic violence each year over this period. This includes funding:

Towards the national helplines including the National Domestic Violence helpline, the Men's Advice Line and Broken Rainbow.

To support local independent domestic violence advisers (IDVAs) and multi-agency risk assessment co-ordinators (MARACs) nationally.

For the training and quality assurance process for MARACs and IDVAs

To contribute to the running of the joint Home Office/Foreign and Commonwealth Office forced marriage unit.

£2.4 million for funding of the Sojourner Pilot for 2011-12.

Drugs: Crime

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department were working on implementing the 2010 Drugs Strategy in each month since January 2011; and how many officials she expects to be working on implementing the strategy in each year to 2013. [58545]

James Brokenshire: The 2010 Drugs Strategy is being implemented across Government in a number of Departments. In the Home Office, the current drug strategy and legislation team has 12 full-time equivalent posts. A number of these posts have a component which incorporates the implementation of the 2010 Drugs Strategy.

Entry Clearances

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proposals her Department has made for implementation of the Tier 1 (Exceptional) Visa Application Scheme; and whether she has set a date for the scheme's implementation. [59098]

Damian Green: We will be making an announcement on the launch of the Tier 1 Exceptional Talent scheme shortly.

Fraud

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to establish a national economic crime agency; and if she will make a statement. [55827]

James Brokenshire: As the Home Secretary announced on 8 June, the new National Crime Agency will tackle a wide range of serious and complex crimes and it will include a dedicated Economic Crime Command that will provide a more effective, better co-ordinated and intelligence-led response across all types of economic crime. Further information on the National Crime Agency plan can be found on the Home Office website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/nca

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the priority given to economic crime by police forces. [55854]

James Brokenshire: Priorities within forces are an operational matter for chief constables and police authorities.

Harassment

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department issues to police forces on obtaining statements from the subjects of alleged harassment on occasions when individuals are charged with offences under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. [58317]

James Brokenshire: Guidance to the police service on obtaining statements from the victims of stalking and harassment can be found in the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) publication 'Practice Advice on Investigating Stalking and Harassment'. This guidance was produced by the National Policing Improvement Agency on behalf of ACPO.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers police forces have to issue warnings or cautions to persons under investigation for offences of stalking or harassment. [58335]

Mrs May: The police have the power to administer a simple caution to an adult offender who has admitted such an offence, or to administer a warning to an offender aged under 18 years who has committed an offence of stalking or harassment. Guidance to police on administering a simple caution is contained within Home Office Circular 016/2008, and guidance on reprimands and warnings in the Final Warning Scheme was published in 2002. Decisions on administering simple cautions, reprimands and warnings must be made in accordance with the Director of Public Prosecution's Guidance on Charging. The police retain the authority to administer a simple caution, reprimand or warning in all cases, other than those involving indictable-only offences, where the matter must be referred to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for a decision. Police officers can also take advice from the CPS at any stage in an investigation on whether a simple caution is appropriate, as set out in the Director's Guidance on Charging.

Homicide: Offensive Weapons

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted of a homicide by a sharp instrument in each year from 1991 to 2011. [40782]

James Brokenshire: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply given on 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 661W.

Human Trafficking

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department provides on the length of the recommended support period for victims of human trafficking. [58728]

Damian Green: Under the National Referral Mechanism, decisions about who is a victim of trafficking are made by trained specialists in designated 'competent authorities'. The detailed guidance issued to competent authorities instructs that a minimum 45-day recovery and reflection period should be granted to identified victims and extended where circumstances warrant.

The guidance is available at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/asylumprocessguidance/specialcases/guidance/competent-guidance

and I shall place a copy in the Library.

Human Trafficking: EU Law

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account her Department's human trafficking strategy will take of measures to implement the European human trafficking directive. [58333]

Damian Green: The strategy on human trafficking will take full account of the contents of the EU directive.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government plans to take to implement the provisions of article 18 of the European human trafficking directive. [58334]

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to consult with non-governmental organisations on implementing the directive of the European Parliament and the Council on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims; [58715]

(2) what steps she plans to take to ensure the effective implementation of the directive of the European Parliament and the Council on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims. [58716]

Damian Green: The Government will shortly be applying to the European Commission formally to opt in to the EU directive on human trafficking. If our application is accepted, we will consider the necessary implementation requirements thereafter.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when and in what form she plans to introduce legislation to ensure compliance with the provisions of the directive of the European Parliament and the Council on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims. [58714]

Damian Green: The Government will shortly be applying to the European Commission formally to opt in to the EU directive on human trafficking. If our application is accepted, we will consider the necessary legislative requirements thereafter, subject to the parliamentary timetable.

Independent Domestic Violence Advocate: Expenditure

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department provided for independent domestic violence advocates in the latest period for which figures are available. [58417]

James Brokenshire: We have allocated £2.5 million per year to support independent domestic violence advisers (IDVAs) for 2011-12 to 2014-15.

Full details of the successful IDVA bids can be found at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/idva/

Members: Correspondence

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Bridgend of 6 January 2011, reference MM/06/01/2011. [58394]

Damian Green: I wrote to the hon. Member in response to her letter on 9 June 2011, and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

Naturalisation: Republic of Ireland

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people with a birthplace in the Republic of Ireland who applied for a UK Certificate of Naturalisation in the last five years gave a current address in Northern Ireland. [59170]

Damian Green *[holding answer 10 June 2011]*: The following table provides information relating to the number of applicants for naturalisation who were born in the Republic of Ireland and gave a current address in Northern Ireland.

Applications received through naturalisation of British citizenship living in Northern Ireland, born in Republic of Ireland from 2006-10[1]

	Case type	*Central point*	*Birth country*	*Number of Persons*
2006	Naturalisation	Northern Ireland	Ireland	[2]—
2007	Naturalisation	Northern Ireland	Ireland	5
2008	Naturalisation	Northern Ireland	Ireland	—
2009	Naturalisation	Northern Ireland	Ireland	[2]—
2010	Naturalisation	Northern Ireland	Ireland	—

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

[2] Negligible i.e. two or less.

This information is taken from local management information provided by UK Border Agency, North West Region Planning and MI Team. It is not a National Statistic and as such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change

Passports: Lost Property

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions staff at the UK Border Agency have reported the loss by the agency of the passport of a foreign national in each of the last 12 months. [58841]

Damian Green: Passport losses are not currently recorded in a single format across the UK Border Agency. It is not possible to identify and cross check all present records to collate figures.

Passports: Republic of Ireland

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who applied to the British embassy in Dublin for a UK passport between 2008 and 2010 gave a current address in the Irish Republic. [59169]

Damian Green *[holding answer 10 June 2011]*: Between 2008 and 2010 the Passport Section at the British embassy produced 27,967 passports.

Applicants with a current address in the Irish Republic must apply to the British embassy in Dublin.

Police: Manpower

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were serving in each police force area in England and Wales in *(a)* March 2010 and *(b)* March 2011. [51892]

Nick Herbert: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 359-61W.

Repatriation: Families

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 414-15W, on deportation: children, how many of the 230 family groups removed from the UK between 1 May 2010 and 30 April 2011 departed voluntarily. [59177]

Damian Green: Since my original response of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 414-15W, the figures have been refreshed and now show that there were 236 family groups removed from the UK between 1 May 2010 and 30 April 2011. Of these, 144 departed voluntarily.

The information provided cannot be taken from or compared to published National Statistics as these report on children rather than family groups. Published National Statistics do not separately identify all enforced removals and all voluntary departures.

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Stalking: Crime Prevention

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures her Department is taking to reduce the incidence of stalking. [58293]

James Brokenshire: Tackling stalking is a key priority for the Home Office and we are working closely with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to improve the support available to victims. Our action plan for tackling violence against women, published on 8 March 2011, includes several actions to tackle stalking, including a commitment from the Home Office to continue to fund the National Stalking Helpline over the spending review period and the formation of a National Stalking Strategy Group comprising the police, CPS, Home Office, Ministry of Justice and experts in the field. Other initiatives include:

The appointment of dedicated Single Points Of Contact (SPOCs) in each force area to deal with stalking complaints;

Revised official Government guidance last year on stalking and harassment that focuses on the victim, emphasises the existence and widespread nature of 'stalking' as a particular category of harassment and identifies the various ways in which stalking occurs.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Disability Living Allowance: Mobility Component

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the effects on people with autism of the proposed reduction in the mobility component of disability living allowance. [58783]

Maria Miller: There are no proposals to reduce the mobility component of disability living allowance.

We announced that we would not remove the DLA mobility component from people in residential care from October 2012 and that we would review the existing evidence and gather more to determine the extent to which there are overlaps in provision for mobility needs of people in residential care homes.

When the work is complete we will make a final decision on the way forward. Any changes will be rolled into the introduction of personal independence payment from April 2013.

State Pension Age: Women

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on planned changes to the state pension age for women; [58802]

Mr Sutcliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on his policy on the date at which the state pension age for women will start to rise. [58803]

Steve Webb: A number of stakeholder groups, as well as individuals, have expressed concern about the changes we propose although the majority of commentators agree that we need to increase the state pension age more quickly.

Crown Relocations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts his Department holds with Crown Relocations; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58638]

Chris Grayling: At present, the Department for Work and Pensions holds no contracts with a supplier called Crown Relocations or with variants of that supplier name.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions under what circumstances it is the policy of his Department and its agencies *(a)* to record and *(b)* not to record telephone conversations with benefit claimants; and if he will make a statement. [58189]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) policy is that all calls are recorded, with the exception of the Jobcentre Plus national benefit fraud hotline and some sections within Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS).

The Department records its telephone calls for several reasons, including training purposes and for quality checking the service provided by our agents to our customers. Call recording also enables us to investigate any complaints made about the service provided by our agents.

The Department does not record national benefit fraud hotline calls because callers have the right to anonymity when contacting us about suspected benefit fraud, and recording the calls would be in breach of this right.

Within PDCS, all customer inquiries relating to new claims or change in circumstance are recorded with the exception of calls to the following specialist sections within National Pension Centre;

Widows,

Complex Cases,

Voluntary National Insurance Contributions Query Line,

Adult Dependency Increase cases, Home Responsibilities Payments and

E-Claim inquiries.

The volume of these calls is minimal and occurs when customers are transferred from the 0845 inquiry line, which is recorded, into the specialist section within National Pension Centre to deal with their query. The sections listed above sit on a 01 geographical number, which means that we are not able to record those calls.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether telephone conversations with benefit claimants made in the course of his Department's pilot projects are recorded; and if he will make a statement. [58203]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) policy has recorded all pilot project calls.

Disability Living Allowance: Islington

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the London borough of Islington were in receipt of disability living allowance in the latest period for which figures are available; how many recipients have been interviewed and their benefits reassessed since May 2010; and how many *(a)* were awarded a lower level of benefit, *(b)* lost all of their allowance and *(c)* were successful on appeal. [59179]

Maria Miller: The number of people in the London borough of Islington who are in receipt of disability living allowance is contained in the following table:

Disability living allowance recipients: November 2010

	Number
Islington local authority	10,930

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. DLA figures are published at:
http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110330154536/http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100% data.

Personal independence payment and the new objective assessment will be implemented for people of working age from April 2013 and any interviews and reassessments in relation to the new benefit will not take place before that date.

We are unable to provide information on how many current recipients of disability living allowance have been interviewed and had their benefit re-assessed since May 2010, and the outcomes, as management information systems within the Pension, Disability and Carers Service do not record that detail.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for East Ham of 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 94-95W, if he will estimate the proportion of contributory employment and support allowance claimants in *(a)* Glasgow and *(b)* Scotland in (i) the work-related activity group and (ii) the assessment phase who would, in a steady state without time limiting, have a duration of 12 months or more. [58421]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available. The modelling of the future employment and support allowance case load, with and without time limiting, is made at a national level and cannot be broken down into smaller geographies.

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the adequacy of the assessment process for determining employment and support allowance; and if he will make a statement. [58801]

Chris Grayling: We are committed to improving the work capability assessment so it is as fair and accurate as possible.

As part of this, we welcome the first independent review of the work capability assessment, led by Professor Malcolm Harrington. The review considered a substantial amount of evidence, including over 400 responses from individuals, organisations and representative bodies to a call for evidence.

As a result of his review of this evidence, Professor Harrington has come forward with a wide range of far-reaching and challenging proposals which we are committed to taking forward. Indeed most of these changes are already in place and we will implement the remainder by summer to coincide with the first work capability assessments of incapacity benefits claimants taking part in the full nationwide reassessment.

We have now appointed Professor Harrington to conduct a second independent review of the WCA and provide further recommendations as appropriate. As part of this review, we expect Professor Harrington to launch a further call for evidence this summer.

The Department continues to value the views of disability groups and we are engaged in ongoing and helpful dialogue at both ministerial and official level with group representatives. For example, I can confirm that my officials have recently met with Mind, Mencap, National Autistic Society and RNIB to discuss WCA-related issues.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 94-95W, on employment and support allowance, to what point in each of the financial years cited his estimates relates. [59329]

Chris Grayling: The figures referenced are calculated using the average case load for each financial year.

Employment Schemes: Voluntary Organisations

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's press notice of 1 April 2011 on Work programme prime contracts, how many of the voluntary sector subcontractors will operate in each of the 18 regions. [59096]

Chris Grayling: A list of Work programme subcontractors by sector and contract package area can be found on the Supplying DWP website. There are a total of 1,099 organisations across all tiers of the supply chains, 508 of whom are from the voluntary sector, 416 are from the private sector and 175 from the public sector.

This is a great opportunity for voluntary organisations to show what they can do, using their local and specialist skills and experience to change peoples' lives. It should be noted that supply chains will evolve during the Work programme contracts as providers build up their networks identifying innovative approaches to supporting individuals. This will increase the opportunity further for additional voluntary organisations to become involved with the Work programme.

G4S

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts his Department holds with G4S; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58669]

Chris Grayling: For the Department for Work and Pensions, the G4S Group holds one Learning and Development contract and three regionally based Work programme contracts.

Further details are provided in the following table.

Supplier	*Contract purpose*	*Contract value (£ million)*
G4S Assessment Services	Learning and Development	0.035
G4S Regional Management (UK & I) Ltd	Work Programme (Contract Package Area 07)	69.3
G4S Regional Management (UK & I) Ltd	Work Programme (Contract Package Area 10)	76.1
G4S Regional Management (UK & I) Ltd	Work Programme (Contract Package Area 18)	44.5

IBM

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts his Department holds with IBM; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58680]

Chris Grayling: For the Department for Work and Pensions, the IBM Group of companies presently hold two contracts. Further details are provided in the following table.

Supplier	*Contract purpose*	*Contract value (£ million)*
IBM UK Ltd	Maintenance and Support of Lotus Software	0.415
IBM	Cognos License and Support Agreement	0.015

Income Support: Young People

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people aged 20 were in receipt of income support because they were living independently and in full-time education in each year since 2005. [58332]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

The data the Department does hold on categories of income support (IS) claimants aged 20 are in the following table.

The 'others receiving IS' category gives an approximation of the number of claimants living independently and in full-time education.

Income support 20-year-old claimants by statistical group in Great Britain, November 2010

	Number
All	30,480
Incapacity benefit	2,390
Lone parent	22,820
Carer	1,280
Others receiving IS	3,990

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data have been compiled using the claimants Income Support Statistical Group, which is a hierarchical variable. A person who fits into more than one category will only appear in the top-most one for which they are eligible.
3. Lone parents are defined as claimants on income support with a child under 16 and no partner. Lone parent obligations were introduced from 24 November 2008 affecting the age of the youngest child.
4. Incapacity benefits are defined as those receiving incapacity benefit or disability living allowance.
5. Carers are defined as those receiving carer's allowance.

Source:

100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study data.

Industrial Diseases

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many instances of musculoskeletal conditions reported to have been caused or aggravated by workplace conditions his Department has recorded since 2010. [58337]

Chris Grayling: The latest year for which statistics are available is 2009-10. The best estimate of the overall number of musculoskeletal disorders caused or aggravated by working conditions comes from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). An estimated 572,000 people, who worked during the last year, suffered from a musculoskeletal disorder (long-standing as well as new cases) they believed was caused or made worse by their current or past work. 188,000 of these were new conditions which started during the year.

Musculoskeletal disorders 2009-10

	Estimated cases (thousand)
Total cases of musculoskeletal disorders	572
New cases of musculoskeletal disorders	188

Industrial Diseases: Death

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many deaths from occupational diseases reported to have been caused or aggravated by workplace conditions his Department has recorded since 2010. [58336]

Chris Grayling: Statistics relating to deaths from occupational diseases reported to have been caused or aggravated by workplace conditions since 2010 are not available.

No single source of information provides a count of the number of people who have died from occupational illnesses. For some causes of death, occupational cases are clinically indistinguishable from those due to other factors. For these causes numbers have to be estimated rather than counted.

Research commissioned by HSE estimated that 8,019 cancer deaths in Great Britain in 2005 were attributable to exposures to carcinogens at work, and it is likely that a similar number would have occurred in subsequent years. This estimate includes deaths from the asbestos-related cancer mesothelioma.

Using other international research, it is also estimated that there are currently approximately 4,000 deaths in Great Britain each year from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) due to past occupational exposures to dusts, gases, vapours and fumes. Again, it is likely that a similar number would have occurred in subsequent years.

The number of deaths in Great Britain for 2008 (the latest year for which data are available) due to the small group of diseases that can be regarded as occupational on the basis of the cause of death alone are provided in table 1.

Most of the occupational diseases that cause death usually take many years to develop following occupational exposures. Estimates of current deaths therefore largely reflect industrial conditions of the past.

Table 1: Deaths due to occupational lung diseases 2008

	Number
Mesothelioma[1]	[2]2,249
Asbestosis[3]	[2]360
Pneumoconiosis other than asbestosis	139
Byssinosis	1
Farmer's lung and other occupational allergic alveolitis	7
Total	2,756

[1] Death certificates that mention mesothelioma.

[2] Provisional.

[3] Death certificates that mention asbestosis excluding those that also mention mesothelioma.

Source:

Health and Safety Executive

Industrial Health and Safety

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the rate of compliance of *(a)* all employers and *(b)* small and medium-sized employers with health and safety regulations in the latest period for which figures are available. [58338]

Chris Grayling: HSE has made no estimate of the rate of compliance of employers with health and safety regulations and does not collect information for this purpose.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of incidents reported to the Health and Safety Executive under the requirements of the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 were investigated in the latest period for which figures are available. [58372]

Chris Grayling: HSE undertook investigation into nearly 4% of reported incidents that occurred between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010.

Industrial Health and Safety: Journalism

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the risks to the health and safety of journalists of *(a)* trends in workload and *(b)* technological changes in the media environment. [58614]

Chris Grayling: Statistical information available to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) provides sample numbers that are too small to identify trends in health and safety for journalists.

Information on the effective assessment and management of workload and on managing organisational change, which can be as a result of technological changes, is available on the HSE website and is applicable to a wide range of occupations including journalism.

Jobcentre Plus: Closures

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the closure of Jobcentre Plus and benefit contact centres in Liverpool, Huyton and Chester on *(a)* response times for replies to correspondence and *(b)* the quality of service provided to users. [58378]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what assessment has been made of the potential effect of the closure of Jobcentre Plus Benefit and Contact Centres in Liverpool, Huyton and Chester on (a) response times for replies to correspondence and (b) the quality of service provided to users. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The closures of the Benefit and Contact Centres in Liverpool, Huyton and Chester should affect neither our correspondence response times nor the quality of the service that we provide to our customers.

With regards the correspondence that we receive, Jobcentre Plus has clearly laid down service standards whereby a customer can expect a full response within 10 working days of us receiving the letter. We are also committed to responding to Members of Parliament writing to us on behalf of a customer within 15 working days.

The rationalisation of our offices can be completed without impacting on the service, we offer to our customers. Our contact centre network is virtual, meaning that calls are routed to the next available agent no matter where they are in the country. Similarly, customers do not actually have direct contact with our benefit processing sites - telephone calls about benefit enquiries are dealt with in our contact centre network.

Our business transformation is designed to respond to the changing ways that people seek to access, our services. Our online job search facility receives more than a million visits every day and our contact centres handle more than 230,000 calls every working day. People can now apply for Jobseeker's Allowance via the internet and more than 500,000 have done so. We are planning to build on these arrangements and introduce a range of new digital services that today's employers and customers expect, including online benefit tracking and enabling jobseekers to create online profiles which can then be matched to vacancies. We are also focused on continuing to modernise and develop our benefit centres to drive up productivity and value for money.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of new claimants of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* employment and support allowance in 2014 who will receive such allowances for the maximum time permitted under his proposals. [59450]

Chris Grayling: In the calendar year 2014, we estimate that *(a)* 24% of JSA contributions customers will reach the six-month threshold and *(b)* 32% of ESA contributory customers will reach the 12-month threshold, which are the maximum times permitted under the proposals.

New Enterprise Allowance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 600W, on the new enterprise allowance, on what date he plans to publish the list of successful applicants; and how many applications he received prior to the deadline. [58357]

Chris Grayling: Details of the successful applicants are being published on the DWP website as they become available.

We do not intend to publish information on the number of applications received for each exercise.

Pensioners: Rebates

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners living in Wales received an electricity rebate under the Energy Rebate Scheme in 2010. [58974]

Steve Webb: The Energy Rebate Scheme resulted in just over 205,000 rebates of which we estimate around 10,500 were made to people living in Wales.

The scheme provided an £80 rebate on electricity bills to eligible people where, on 26 March 2010, they (or their partner) were aged 70 or over and receiving only the guarantee credit element of pension credit. They also needed to be responsible for paying their own electricity bill.

Note:

The six participating energy suppliers provided this information. Some were able to provide breakdowns by country. Others provided estimates based on the proportion of their customers living in Wales.

Pensions: Tooting

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Tooting constituency claim pension credit. [58444]

Steve Webb: The information requested is in the following table.

Recipients of pension credit in the Tooting constituency

	Individual beneficiaries	*Household recipients*
As at November 2010	3,920	3,350

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data

Private Rented Housing: Greater London

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of private sector tenants in each London borough who have needed to change accommodation as a result of changes to their housing benefit allowance in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [59181]

Steve Webb: While we cannot provide estimates at this early stage, or predict the behavioural impact of the reforms, it is likely that only a few people will have needed to move. We are giving existing claimants up to nine months transitional protection from the anniversary date of the claim so many will not start to see a change in the local housing allowance rate until January 2012.

We have provided an indication of the average weekly losses in benefit and percentages of the caseload affected in each local authority in the impact assessment published on 30 November 2010 available on the Department for Work and Pensions website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/lha-impact-nov10.pdf

We have also commissioned a consortium of leading research organisations to evaluate the effects of recent local housing allowance changes. They are undertaking an independent review which will run for two years.

Serco

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts his Department holds with Serco; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58661]

Chris Grayling: For the Department for Work and Pensions, the Serco Group holds two Work Programme, 10 Science, Research and Technical Support and three Flexible New Deal contracts. Although there are a total of 15 live contracts in all, the three Flexible New Deal contracts will terminate in June 2011. Further details of the contracts are provided in the following table:

Supplier	*Contract purpose*	*Contract value (£ million)*
Serco Group plc	Work Programme (Contract Package Area 15)	72.0
Serco Group plc	Work Programme (Contract Package Area 17)	43.7
Serco Group plc	Flexible New Deal—Coventry and Warwickshire, The Marches, Staffordshire	138.3
Serco Group plc	Flexible New Deal—Greater Manchester Central, Greater Manchester East and West	118.2
Serco Group plc	Flexible New Deal—South East Wales, North and Mid Wales	137.2
Serco Group plc	10 x Science, Research and Technical Support contracts for the Health and Safety Executive	0.536

Shared Housing: Glasgow

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he made of the availability of shared accommodation in Glasgow when taking the decision on the extension of the shared accommodation rate of housing benefit to single people under 35 years. [59265]

Steve Webb: No assessment has been made of the availability of shared accommodation in Glasgow. This will depend on the responses of claimants and landlords to the reduced local housing allowance entitlement.

Social Security Benefits: Young People

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what benefits will be available to people aged *(a)* 15, *(b)* 16, *(c)* 18 and *(d)* 25 with long-term health conditions under the proposed universal credit scheme when they are (i) in employment, (ii) unable to work as a result of their condition, (iii) seeking work and (iv) in education. [59457]

Chris Grayling: The Welfare Reform Bill sets out that the minimum age for universal credit is generally 18 but provides scope to vary this for specific groups, via regulations.

The aim is to maintain access to benefits for under-18s, including those with long-term health conditions, on broadly the same basis as now. Currently, 15-year-olds are not eligible for income-related employment and support allowance but 16 and 17-year-olds can receive it if they are assessed as having limited capability for work under the work capability assessment. We intend to follow a similar approach under universal credit and that benefit should be available to qualifying young people both in and out of work.

Those aged 18 or over will be able to claim universal credit whether or not they have limited capability for work, providing they satisfy the other entitlement conditions. Under the Bill a basic condition of entitlement is that a person is not receiving education but there is scope to make exceptions in regulations. It is expected that these exceptions will maintain the current support that is available through the benefits and tax higher education.

State Retirement Pensions

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in Tooting constituency who will reach the state pension age *(a)* more than one year and *(b)* two years later than planned as a result of the proposed new timetable for state pension age changes. [58287]

Steve Webb: We estimate that in Tooting constituency there are approximately 520 women who will have an increase in state pension age of more than a year. Of these women, approximately 50 will have an increase of exactly two years.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department plans to offer to individuals who will retire before reaching state pension age as a result of the Government's proposed timetable for state pension age changes. [58758]

Steve Webb: People who are unemployed may claim a working age benefit (jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance) and receive employment help from Jobcentre Plus until they become eligible for state pension. This year, we have given Jobcentre Plus staff more flexibility to help people find and keep jobs. We are rolling out a range of new measures aimed at getting Britain working, including Work Clubs to help jobseekers share skills or experiences and the new enterprise allowance for those considering self-employment. From this summer, the Work programme will provide personalised help for people unemployed for longer or who need early intensive support.

The Government have introduced legislation this year to phase out the default retirement age (DRA), which will mean that employers can no longer retire people compulsorily at 65 years using the DRA. This change will help people to extend their working life until they become eligible for state pension, or beyond if they choose to. The legislation will still allow employers to use compulsory retirement ages, which can be earlier than 65 years, providing they can objectively justify it.

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women living in Tooting constituency and affected by the proposed timetable for state pension age changes are *(a)* in full-time work, *(b)* in part-time work and *(c)* unemployed. [58442]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available at constituency level.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women living in Tooting constituency affected by the proposed timetable for state pension age changes are married or cohabiting with a partner. [58443]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available at constituency level.

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of women in Islwyn constituency who will have their state pension age increased by one year or more as a consequence of the proposed change to the state pension age for women. [58961]

Steve Webb: We estimate that in Islwyn constituency there are approximately 2,650 women who will have their state pension age increased by one year or more as a consequence of the proposed change on the state pension age for women.

Work Capability Assessment

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what means the proposals in the Welfare Reform Bill will take account of the findings of the Harrington review of the work capacity assessment in relation to fluctuating conditions. [58318]

Chris Grayling: We are committed to improving the work capability assessment so it is as fair and accurate as possible.

As part of this, we welcome the first independent review of the work capability assessment, led by Professor Malcolm Harrington. We are committed to taking forward all of his recommendations. Most of these changes are already in place and we will implement the remainder by summer to coincide with the first work capability assessments of incapacity benefits claimants taking part in the full nationwide reassessment.

Additionally, as part of his second independent annual review of the work capability assessment, Professor Harrington has already asked a number of charities including the MS Society, Arthritis Care, Parkinsons UK, Colitis UK, Crohns and the National Aids Trust to look in detail at the work capability assessment descriptors for fluctuating conditions.

We look forward to receiving Professor Harrington's recommendations regarding these conditions later this summer.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 14 June 2011

NORTHERN IRELAND

Banks: Pay

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with *(a)* banks and *(b)* ministerial colleagues on the level of employee bonuses paid by banks based in Northern Ireland. [59270]

Mr Paterson: I have had no such discussions. These are not matters for which I have ministerial responsibility.

Southern Cross Healthcare

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with his ministerial colleagues on the future of Southern Cross care homes in Northern Ireland. [59269]

Mr Paterson: Care homes, care services and personal social services are devolved matters which are the responsibility of the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. To date I have not been approached by ministerial colleagues in Whitehall or Stormont to discuss the future of Southern Cross care homes, but the Minister of State, Department of Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Sutton and Cheam (Paul Burstow), informed the House on 7 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 6, that his Department is engaged with the devolved Administrations on this matter.

SCOTLAND

Corporation Tax

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has received any information from the Scottish Government on the *(a)* nature and *(b)* extent of their proposals for the devolution of powers in respect of the rate of corporation tax in Scotland. [59647]

Michael Moore: I met with the First Minister on 12 May to discuss the Scotland Bill. At this meeting the Scottish Government committed to provide detailed information on their proposals for devolution of powers, including corporation tax. To date, no information has been provided on any of their proposals.

Injunctions: Mass Media

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Justice on the effects of super-injunctions made under English law on the freedom of the press in Scotland. [59259]

Michael Moore: The Attorney-General confirmed in answer to an urgent question in the House on 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 633-644, that the Prime Minister would be asking for a Joint Committee of both Houses to be established to consider the current law in relation to privacy and the use of anonymity injunctions and super-injunctions. The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice and the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport are in the process of liaising with the Chairs of the Committees with an interest in this area and with the House authorities regarding the terms of reference, membership and timetable for the new Joint Committee.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Internet

Priti Patel: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 15-16W, on security certificate, for what reasons IPSA did not notify hon. Members that the security certificate had expired. [57624]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, June 2011:

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for what reasons IPSA did not notify hon. Members that the security certificate had expired.

IPSA notified MPs by email soon after we became aware the certificate had expired. The email was sent at 16.52 on 20 April. The text of the email is noted below.

Dear Member of Parliament

We have been made aware that when you access our online expenses system via certain web browsers, an error message may appear about the website's security certificate. We are working on this as a matter of urgency and the issue will be resolved very shortly.

Please be assured that there is no problem with our website's security and that if you click the Continue to website link, you will be able to access the online expenses system and enter claims as normal.

Regards

Jo Blake

Deputy Director of Operations

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) whether officials in his Department have had discussions with the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) following the publication of UNCTAD's 2010 Creative Economy report; [59453]

(2) whether officials in his Department are participating in UN Conference on Trade and Development work on improving the measurement of creative economies globally to enable international comparison. [59454]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 13 June 2011]*: Officials in my Department have noted the publication of the 2010 Creative Economy report but have not had any subsequent discussions on it with the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and are not directly participating in its improvement work. However, we are actively participating in a European Statistical System Network aiming to establish a more consistent way of measuring the cultural and creative industries. This work is now moving into its latter stages, and we anticipate that UNCTAD would consider this work in its development.

Churches: Repairs and Maintenance

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when and in what form the proposal to withdraw tax relief on VAT for repairs to church and chapel organs was publicised. [58445]

John Penrose: In October 2010 a Departmental press notice was published that included the proposal:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/7469.aspx>

The departmental website and Listed Places of Worship scheme websites were also subsequently updated:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/historic_environment/3332.aspx>

and

http://www.lpwscheme.org.uk/>

Contacts in the major denominations, heritage groups and devolved Administrations were informed of the changes.

FIFA

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what recent discussions his Department has had with the Football Association (FA) on the FA's membership of FIFA; [59751]

(2) whether his Department has made representations to FIFA on the conduct of FIFA executive committee members; [59752]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Football Association on the awarding of the right to host the 2018 and 2022 World Cups. [59759]

Hugh Robertson: I have regular discussions with the FA about a range of subjects and FIFA has clearly featured in these discussions. There have been no detailed discussions about the 2018 and 2022 World Cups. I support the FA's intention to remain a member of FIFA and the decision to send the result of the inquiry held by James Dingemans QC to FIFA—although this was solely a matter for the FA.

Film

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much grant in aid funding his Department provided for film-making in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [58043]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Department gave the following amounts in grant in aid funding to support the film industry in the UK:

(a) £33.3 million;

(b) £40.963 million; and

(c) £28.268 million.

This money is used for a number of activities, including supporting film-making and the Screen Heritage UK programme.

Gambling

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 349-50W, on gambling, what machines research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* assessed. [58426]

John Penrose: The Department currently does not directly commission research on gambling. In the last two years the Gambling Commission has undertaken research into a range of issues associated with gaming machines and published several independent reports. Building on the Commission's work, the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board, which now determines the strategy and priorities for research, education and treatment, has included research on gambling machines within its strategy to be implemented through the Responsible Gambling Fund (RGF). The RGF's first project on terrestrial gaming machines is due to report in the summer and will seek to identify the distribution of machines across Britain against population density and socio-economic information. RGF has recently invited tenders for its second study in this area which will explore the relationship between gaming machines features and consumer behaviour in Britain.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 349-50W, on gambling, what meetings he has had with representatives of outside bodies where the Gambling Prevalence Survey has been discussed since 1 February 2011. [58430]

John Penrose: Officials would have discussed the prevalence study during their regular meetings with trade bodies and with faith and community groups. This includes the Gambling Commission's Community Liaison Group meeting with faith groups and others on 18 March 2011 and discussions with a wide range of the businesses represented by Business in Sport and Leisure on 21 March 2011. It would not have been possible to discuss the results of the 2010 Prevalence Study with outside organisations prior to the release of the report on 15 February 2011.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when his Department plans to publish its response to the consultation on the regulatory future of remote gambling in Great Britain. [58613]

John Penrose: The Government are currently considering options for reforming the regulation of remote gambling in Britain and we hope to make an announcement in due course.

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions and on what dates his Department has had discussions with the Unitarian General Assembly on the new tranche of money under the Listed Places of Worship VAT concession scheme. [58446]

John Penrose: The Department did not have any discussions with the Unitarian General Assembly prior to the announcement of the funding being made available under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme from 2011-12. It was not possible to have individual discussions with all faith communities potentially affected by this issue in advance of the announcement, although we managed to cover a fair proportion of them nonetheless.

Olympic Games 2012: Betting

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will ensure that the Gambling Commission's licence condition 15 applies to all betting operators taking bets prior to the London 2012 Olympic games. [58550]

John Penrose: The Gambling Commission's licence condition 15.1 applies to all British-based betting operators. Overseas based operators are bound by the requirements of their own jurisdictions.

Olympic Games 2012: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent steps he has taken to promote Northern Ireland as a venue for training camps for foreign nations participating in the London 2012 Olympics. [59399]

Hugh Robertson: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic games (LOCOG) has offered support to Northern Ireland in promoting that as a venue for pre games training camps (PGTCs), most recently through LOCOG Board Member Jonathan Edwards' attendance at an event in the House of Lords in May 2011 to promote PGTCs in Northern Ireland to Latin American nations, I also discussed the issue directly with my Northern Ireland counterpart during my visit on 9 March 2011.

Potential PGTC venues in Northern Ireland are listed in the PGTC Guide. Agreements for use of PGTCs are made directly between a National Olympic Committee or National Paralympic Committee and the facility.

Telecommunications: Hearing Impairment

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many items of correspondence he has received in the last 12 months from *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public on the introduction of universal video relay services for deaf people. [58388]

Mr Vaizey: The introduction of universal video relay services for deaf people falls under my remit as Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries. Accordingly, correspondence on this subject is handled by me rather than the Secretary of State.

The Department has received approximately 200 items of correspondence on this subject over the last 12 months. Of these, around 180 have been from hon. Members, and 20 have been from members of the public.

The Secretary of State has responded to one case personally, submitted by a right hon. Member on behalf of their constituent.

Television: Local Broadcasting

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what consideration he has given to the merits of establishing a local television affiliate network. [59390]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 13 June 2011]*: The Department received 21 expressions of interest in response to the Local Media Action Plan from organisations interested in providing a network channel to support local TV services. A further 43 proposals were submitted for individual local services and five for services in the Devolved Nations. The Department is now considering these responses alongside the relevant technical, commercial and legal considerations and will soon be publishing an outline of our final policy proposals.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the working definition of anti-Semitism used by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights; and if he will make a statement. [59038]

Andrew Stunell: We recognise that the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights working definition of anti-Semitism is a useful tool in helping to identify anti-Semitic discourse and is used by a number of agencies for this purpose. The UK Government currently use the Macpherson definition of a racist incident which is an incident that is perceived as racist by the victim or any other person, and this would include anti-Semitism.

Energy Performance Certificates

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 33W, on energy performance certificates, for what reasons his Department transposed into legislation requirements in respect of holiday lets arising from the energy performance of buildings directive. [59429]

Andrew Stunell: The energy performance of buildings directive requires that an energy performance certificate is produced on the construction, sale or rent of a building, including some buildings which are rented out as holiday homes. These requirements have been transposed into domestic legislation because the United Kingdom is obliged to implement European Union directives.

Housing

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research on the potential financial savings across central Government to accrue from (i) house building and (ii) improving housing standards; and if he will make a statement. [59411]

Andrew Stunell: My Department has not commissioned or evaluated research on the potential financial savings across central Government that accrue from house building and improving housing standards.

However, the Government recognise the importance of private house building, and renovation and repairs to housing, in supporting economic growth and jobs, both of which have a bearing on the public finances.

Housing: Construction

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received from housing developers on the effect of the time taken to *(a)* plan and *(b)* release new housing stock on (i) economic growth and (ii) the rate of house construction. [59487]

Grant Shapps: The Government have regular discussions with house builders and other key players in the housing market on a wide range of issues, as we look to find ways to increase the supply of new homes. We fully recognise the key role of house building in economic growth, and the importance of maintaining a strong pipeline to support new construction.

We are therefore committed to assisting first time buyers, reducing regulation and other burdens on house-builders, replacing top down targets on new housing with funding to support services, and accelerating the release of public sector land for new development.

Housing: Morecambe

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the Chatsworth Gardens housing project in Morecambe; what funds are available to the project; and from what sources. [59234]

Grant Shapps: Lancaster city council has acquired 46 properties out of the 73 terraced homes on the site in Morecambe that is to be used for the Chatsworth Gardens housing project. The council is working with the Homes and Communities Agency on a way to proceed with the project, including preparing a financial appraisal. These will be presented to the Cabinet in due course.

Funding for the project includes Homes and Communities Agency investment of £7.7 million. The council is considering the impact of further funding streams, including resources generated from new homes bonus projections over the next five years.

Local Government Finance

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much central Government funding Sunderland city council has been allocated for financial years *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15. [58970]

Robert Neill: At the time of the Local Government Finance Settlement announcement on the 31 January, the Government confirmed local authority revenue spending power allocations for 2011-12 and indicative allocations for 2012-13. Spending power can broadly be defined as the amount of council tax available plus Government revenue grants and NHS funding for social care.

Information on the changes in estimated revenue spending power for Sunderland city council can be found on the DCLG website at:

2011-12:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/spannexas.xls

2012-13:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/spannexbs3.xls

Allocations for 2013-14 and 2014-15 are not yet available.

Social Rented Housing

Mrs Mensch: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many payments have been made under the Cash Incentive Scheme under section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 to social housing tenants in each local authority area in each of the last five years; [59358]

(2) how much each local authority has spent on Cash Incentive Scheme payments to social housing tenants in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [59359]

Grant Shapps: Local authorities are asked to report annually on the number and value of cash incentive grants made under section 129 of the Housing Act 1988, which provides powers for local housing authorities to make available cash grants to qualifying tenants or licensees of the authority for the purchase of properties on the open market or to carry out works to provide additional accommodation.

The data, reported in section J of their Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns, are available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/localauthorityhousing/dataforms/

Figures for the number of grants and total expenditure by each local authority on cash incentive scheme grants for 2001-02 to 2009-10 are available to download. Data on the value of these grants were not collected for 2008-09 and, therefore, are not available. Information for 2010-11 is currently being collected and will be published this autumn.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Community Care Grants

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many community care grant applications have been made in *(a)* Bristol, *(b)* the south-west and *(c)* nationally in each of the past 12 months; and what proportion of such applications were successful. [58364]

Steve Webb: The information for the past 12 months is not available.

The information for the last financial year will be included in the Secretary of State's annual report on the Social Fund which will be presented to Parliament in July.

Employment

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in receipt of jobseeker's allowance subsequently entered employment in the most recent quarter for which figures are available. [59226]

Chris Grayling: The information requested on those leaving jobseeker's allowance (JSA) and moving into work is not available.

Claimants leaving JSA are not required to inform the Department of their destinations or future intentions and hence the information that is collected on this group is incomplete.

Funeral Payments

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider the merits of increasing funeral payments to reflect the recent trends in funeral costs. [59563]

Steve Webb: Funeral payments provide a significant contribution towards the cost of a simple, low cost respectful funeral. The scheme meets the full costs of the cremation or burial and provides up to £700 towards other costs.

The Government accept that the other costs associated with a funeral are increasing and cannot always be met from the £700 limit. This is why we are taking powers in the Welfare Reform Bill to extend access to social fund budgeting loans to include funeral costs and maternity items. This change will provide additional support to those on low incomes at expensive times in their lives.

Industrial Health and Safety

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many successful prosecutions were made by the Health and Safety Executive for breaches of health and safety or negligence by employers that led to a workplace *(a)* injury, *(b)* fatality and *(c)* illness being caused or made worse in each year since 2005. [59196]

Chris Grayling: From 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2011, the Health and Safety Executive took the following number of successful prosecutions against employers:

	Non-fatal injuries	*Fatalities*	*Ill-health*
2005-06	244	80	2
2006-07	216	102	2
2007-08	249	105	3
2008-09	278	102	5
2009-10	205	95	9
2010-11	247	87	2

Jobseeker's Allowance

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to ensure that job seekers receive support and advice to access employment opportunities using public transport, cycling and walking following the closure of some Workwise programmes. [58864]

Chris Grayling: Among other normal day-to-day household expenses, the cost of reasonable travel is provided in DWP benefit payments. This includes local work search for those receiving jobseekers allowance.

From April this year, the support that Jobcentre Plus offers to claimants across all working age benefits has been improved. Jobcentre Plus managers and advisers now have more flexibility in the way they help benefit claimants, enabling a more personalised service that is better able to meet individual and local labour market needs. To help facilitate this, we have amalgamated a number of discretionary funds to create one Flexible Support Fund, which provides additional means to supplement and tailor the core back to work support available for claimants.

Jobcentre Plus advisers will consider helping with costs associated with travel to interviews outside a claimants' local travel to work area or, in some discretionary circumstances, the costs of travelling to local interviews. Advisers also have the discretion to assist claimants with travel expenses to support the transition between benefits and sustained work, e.g. travel passes for the first month of a new job. This additional support is potentially available to claimants across the country whether or not a Workwise programme is in operation.

In making decisions concerning additional financial support associated with accessing employment opportunities, Jobcentre Plus advisers will take account of individual circumstances and the relevant national and district guidelines to ensure that help represents the best value for public money.

Managing Agents: Mental Health

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff employed by Atos to work on contracts with his Department have a recognised mental health qualification; and if he will make a statement. [58612]

Chris Grayling: The information is not readily available and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Atos does employ health care professionals with mental health qualifications in the DWP Medical Services contract. However, there is no requirement for health care professionals who conduct assessments for benefit purposes to have mental health qualifications because entitlement to benefit is based upon the functional impairment associated with the underlying medical condition, rather than the nature of the medical condition itself.

For this reason all health care professionals who carry out assessments for benefit purposes are trained in disability assessment medicine and this includes assessment of people with mental health problems.

Pensioners: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of the 2011 Budget on pensioners resident in Coventry. [59227]

Steve Webb: The impacts of the tax and benefit measures announced in the Budget are only available at an aggregate level. Lower geographical or household type disaggregation do not provide sufficiently robust results.

In the Budget 2011 the Government announced their intention to bring forward proposals to manage future changes in the state pension age more automatically, including the option of a regular independent review of longevity changes. In addition the Budget announced that the Government would look to reforming the state pension system for future pensioners so that it provides simple, contributory, flat-rate support above the level of the means tested guarantee credit.

Both of these measures are the subject of the consultation document: A state pension for the 21st century; the consultation closes on 24 June 2011. Neither of these measures will see impacts on pensioners in the short term. More detailed proposals, alongside a full impact assessment, will be published if the Government decide to proceed with reform.

Social Security Benefits

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of people in receipt of an active benefit who are unable to speak English to a level which would enable them to take up employment; and if he will make a statement. [58835]

Chris Grayling: Information on the number of people on an active benefit who are unable to speak English to a level which would enable them to take up employment is not available.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills collects information on why a learner has received fee remission for any learning they undertake. These data provide some information on claimants, though they do not provide an accurate picture on the number of learners who are also benefit claimants, nor on what other learning and or benefit entitlements that person might also have. For the 2009-10 academic year, 71,000 learners studying English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) claimed fee remission as they were in receipt of an income-related benefit and 14,000 learners claimed fee remission as they were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. A further 10,700 learners in 2009-10 studied ESOL through the Employability Skills Programme.

Information on participation on ESOL courses is published in a quarterly statistical first release and the latest edition, published 31 March 2011, is available online at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Universal Credit

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 46WS, on universal credit (review of passported benefits), what plans he has to publish the non-binding interim report referred to in the terms of reference of the review; [58576]

(2) whether the Social Security Advisory Committee plans to hold a public consultation as part of its review; [58577]

(3) what plans the Social Security Advisory Committee has to consult stakeholders as part of its review; [58578]

(4) whether he proposes that the Social Security Advisory Committee should *(a)* consult Government Departments and *(b)* advise on any implications of its recommendations for Government departments as part of its review. [58579]

Chris Grayling: The Committee is in the early stages of the review and will be publishing a public consultation document seeking views on passported benefits under universal credit shortly.

The Committee plans to consult with stakeholders, including other Government Departments and devolved Administrations to seek their views and may consider the implications for other Government Departments of the treatment of passported benefits under universal credit. The Committee has been asked to produce an interim report for the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by the end of September and will produce a final report in January 2012, which will be published.

Working Conditions: Temperature

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints were made to the Health and Safety Executive in relation to stress due to exposure to high temperatures in the work place in each of the last six years for which figures are available. [59702]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not collated centrally in a readily retrievable format and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on determination of the long-term and short-term physical and psychological effects on workers of exposure to workplace temperature above 30 degrees Celsius. [59757]

Chris Grayling: In 2009 HSE commissioned an independent review into workplace temperatures, which drew on the wide range of non-Government research available. Following this review HSE conducted a survey about temperatures in workplaces, to which 2,933 completed responses were submitted. Evaluation of these and other data provided little evidence of significant numbers of illnesses, long or short term, physical or psychological, caused or exacerbated by exposure to high temperatures.

DEFENCE

Departmental Catering

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on *(a)* catering and *(b)* refreshments since May 2010. [59556]

Mr Robathan: Catering for Ministry of Defence civilian and service personnel at UK Defence establishments is provided either through regional prime contracts administered by the Defence infrastructure organisation or through multi-activity facilities management contracts (incorporating pay as you dine arrangements), placed by relevant top level budget holders. Information on the amount spent specifically on catering within these contracts is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Similarly, costs for light refreshments in the working environment at individual sites are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. In the current financial climate staff are encouraged not to incur expenditure on refreshments except in exceptional circumstances.

For United Kingdom armed forces personnel "in barracks" (when personnel are not being fed under multi-activity facilities management contracts), and those serving on operations and overseas exercises, there is a single food supply contract with Purple Foodservice Solutions Ltd. The total value, including the cost of food, administration and transport, from May 2010 to May 2011 was £170 million. The Department has also procured operational ration packs over the same period for which the cost was £41.3 million.

Israel: Guided Weapons

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advice his Department has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received on the implications of the Missile Technology Control Regime for the import of Watchkeeper unmanned aerial vehicles and associated technology from Israel. [59102]

Peter Luff: Where necessary the Ministry of Defence consults with other Government Departments on the implications that international agreements may have on our acquisition programmes. In this case there are no implications for the import of the Watchkeeper system to the United Kingdom. The Watchkeeper system is classed as a Category II system in that it does not have the ability to carry a 500 kg payload to a distance of at least 300 km. Exports of Category II systems are permitted under Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) guidelines in accordance with national export licensing arrangements.

Israel states that it voluntarily adheres to MTCR guidelines despite not being a member. In this context it is therefore Israel's responsibility to have made an assessment of the Watchkeeper system against MTCR controls before approving its export.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many RAF personnel are active as part of Operation Ellamy; where each unit is based; and what the average *(a)* daily and *(b)* monthly cost of operating each such unit has been. [57703]

Nick Harvey: As of 1 June 2011 there were around 900 RAF personnel deployed overseas on Operation Ellamy. We have made use of existing overseas bases such as Cyprus and maintain a small HQ presence within NATO in Naples and Poggio as well as having a small number of liaison officers deployed to the HQs of our allies. In addition a small number of personnel are deployed to Benghazi, Libya in support of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office mission there.

The RAF personnel deployed in support of Operation Ellamy are a mixture of formed units and augmentees. The breakdown across the major deployed locations and the capabilities they are supporting as at 1 June 2011 is shown in the following table.

	Capability supported	*Number of RAF personnel*[1]
Gioia Dell Colle, Italy	Typhoon Aircraft Tornado Aircraft	550
Trapani, Italy	Sentry Surveillance Aircraft VC10 Tanker Aircraft	150
Naples, Italy	Headquarters staff	<50
Poggio Renatico, Italy	Headquarters staff	50
Akrotiri, Cyprus	Nimrod Surveillance Aircraft E3-D AWACS Aircraft Sentry Surveillance Aircraft VC10 Tanker Aircraft	100
Total deployed on Operation Ellamy		900

[1] Rounded to the nearest 50 personnel

The precise number of personnel overseas fluctuates on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces, and visits, amid arid a range of other factors. We do not, therefore, publish actual figures for personnel deployed.

As I have said before, I expect the cost of the UK's involvement in NATO operations over Libya to be modest in comparison to other operations such as Afghanistan. It is still too early to give a robust estimate of the final costs of the operation. I can, however, provide initial indications of average accommodation, allowances and fuel costs for the main deployed locations, for all three services and civilians.

Accommodation

The approximate average monthly cost, assessed up to 1 June 2011, for accommodation of all UK personnel at the main locations is provided in the following table. The costs for Akrotiri accommodation are the additional costs to support Ellamy personnel over and above the normal costs of accommodation at the base.

	Approximate monthly accommodation costs (£)	*Approximate daily accommodation costs (£)*
Gioia Dell Colle, Italy	1,000,000	30,000
Trapani, Italy	300,000	10,000
Poggio Renatico, Italy	150,000	5,000
Naples, Italy	60,000	2,000
Akrotiri, Cyprus	42,000	1,400

Allowances

There are two types of personal allowance paid to service personnel in Italy. Longer separation allowance (LSA) is paid on an accrual basis for military personnel separated from their families and will continue to be paid for the duration of the operation. The recorded costs of LSA for deployed personnel in Italy is around £600,000 per month or £20,000 per day.

Local overseas allowance (LOA) is paid for personnel on operations before a complete welfare package has been set up as is currently the case in Poggio Renatico and Naples. The recorded costs of LOA for deployed personnel in Italy and Cyprus is around £50,000 per month or £1,700 per day.

Fuel

Aviation fuel costs average around £1.2 million per month or £43,000 per day, although the costs vary week by week.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the decision to deploy Apache helicopters as part of Operation Ellamy was made; and if he will make a statement. [58702]

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on what dates and in which settings *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have discussed with their French counterparts the deployment of British attack helicopters in Libya; [58277]

(2) whether the deployment of UK attack helicopters in Libya has been discussed by the National Security Council since 1 April 2011; [58453]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 780, on Libya, what moving targets will be struck with greater precision through the use of attack helicopters; [58454]

(4) whether the decision to deploy British attack helicopters in Libya was taken at a meeting of the National Security Council. [58698]

Dr Fox: The decision to send Apache helicopters to Libya was taken on 26 May 2011, and came after careful consideration of the tactical and strategic advantages they offered and the associated risks. The issue was discussed on several occasions by the National Security Council at ministerial and official level, and between the UK and international partners, including the French, before reaching a decision.

UK Apache helicopters were declared officially to NATO at midnight on 31 May 2011. I subsequently authorised the active use of our Apaches in combat missions in support of Operation Unified Protector seeing their first use on 3 June 2011.

The mix of assets contributed by the UK to Operation Unified Protector is reviewed regularly by the Ministry of Defence and wider Government. UK Apache helicopters are employed under NATO command and control. It is not possible to say in advance exactly which targets they will be used against as this is an operational matter. All targets engaged will be in support of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1970 and 1973.

Light Dragoons Museum: Finance

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will maintain his Department's funding streams which support the Light Dragoons museum at Cannon Hall, Barnsley. [58848]

Mr Robathan: There are no plans to change the financial support for the Light Dragoons museum at Cannon Hall, Barnsley or any other regimental museums at this time.

The Army is currently conducting a study which will clarify the role of regimental museums and produce proposals for future structures. This is not a savings exercise, indeed it is an underpinning principle of the study that the protection and preservation of the Army's heritage is essential. The study is expected to report in the autumn.

Lord Ashcroft

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what security clearance Lord Ashcroft will require to enable him to act as an adviser in the review of British military bases in Cyprus. [58850]

Dr Fox: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 416W, to the right hon. Member for East Renfrewshire (Mr Murphy).

NATO

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent assessment he has made of the UK's contribution to and involvement in NATO's Istanbul co-operation initiative; and if he will make a statement; [58873]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the UK's contribution to and involvement in NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue. [58874]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The United Kingdom supported fully the decision to make co-operative security with partners one of the three essential core tasks of NATO's 2010 strategic concept. In support of tackling common security challenges, we are engaged in the process of strengthening NATO's co-operation with all partners, including the Istanbul co-operation initiative nations and the Mediterranean Dialogue nations, on the basis of a range of enhanced mechanisms agreed at the April 2011 NATO Foreign Ministers' meeting. It is encouraging that some nations involved in these initiatives are contributing to operations in Libya.

Navy: Vessels

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) *(a)* how many naval aviators are currently training with foreign navies, *(b)* with which navies they are training, *(c)* how many such personnel are qualified for carrier operations using catapults and traps and *(d)* which aircraft they are certified on; [58915]

(2) what rules of engagement apply in combat situations to Royal Navy aviators stationed on foreign aircraft carriers; [58916]

(3) when he proposes that Royal Navy aviators will be assigned to the air wing of the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle. [58917]

Nick Harvey: There are currently two Royal Navy pilots undertaking fast jet training with foreign navies: both are under training with the US navy. The two pilots are qualified for day catapult and arrestor carrier operations on the T/A-45 Goshawk aircraft. One further pilot has completed training and is both day and night qualified on the F/A-18E Super Hornet.

UK personnel operating with other forces would be subject to UK law, and applicable international law, at all times. We do not discuss specific rules of engagement as their disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Discussion between the Royal Navy and the French navy remains ongoing regarding the timing, training and placement of Royal Navy aviators into the Charles de Gaulle in support of the UK-France Letter of Intent.

SBIRS Radome

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date each SBIRS radome at the installation at Menwith Hill is to become operational. [59108]

Nick Harvey: The Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS) facilities at RAF Menwith Hill are ready for operation.

The specific operational dates are a matter for the United States, although it is likely all SBIRS facilities at the base will be operational by the end of 2011.

JUSTICE

Approved Premises: Schools

Mr Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many approved premises are within one mile of a maintained or independent school for pupils aged 12 or under; [59564]

(2) how many approved premises are within one mile of a maintained or independent nursery school. [59565]

Mr Blunt: Approved premises provide for enhanced supervision of certain high risk of harm offenders, particularly on release from custody, which allows them to be supervised far more closely than if they were housed in less suitable accommodation elsewhere in the community.

Details of all the schools and nurseries located within a specific radius of an approved premises are not held centrally. The information requested could only be provided by a detailed search of the geographical area of each approved premises. This would breach cost limits.

Child sex offenders are excluded from approved premises which are directly adjacent to a school or a nursery. There are 14 approved premises which exclude child sex offenders.

Custody Disputes: Children

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many representations his Department has received on the representation of the wishes of British children in custody disputes in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other EU member states (i) between January 2005 and April 2010 and (ii) since May 2010. [59153]

Mr Djanogly: In so far as can be identified from our records, the number of items of correspondence and ministerial meetings which raised the issue of the representation of the wishes of the child in disputes regarding residence and contact were as follows:

Between January 2005 to April 2010

Letters from MPs *(a)* UK—2

Ministerial Meetings *(b)* other EU member states—1

Since May 2010

Letters from MPs *(a)* UK—1

Letters from MPs *(b)* other EU member states—1

Letters from members of the public *(a)* UK—5

There was one early day motion in 2009 on the question of relocation of children outside the United Kingdom and the importance of taking into account the child's best interests and rights to have a continuing relationship with both parents.

Since June 2010 the independent Family Justice Review, chaired by David Norgrove, has been taking evidence on a range of issues around family justice, including the representation of the wishes of children in residence and contact disputes that involve them.

Legal Aid

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on legal aid in Aberavon constituency in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the potential effects of his proposed legal aid reforms on the level of expenditure in that area. [59421]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is not readily available and therefore could be provided only at disproportionate cost. For example payments to criminal barristers cannot easily be broken down by the location of the barrister or client.

It is not possible to predict with any degree of accuracy future expenditure in any given geographic area, as this will entirely depend on the nature of the cases that arise in future in that area.

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency received legal aid in each category of assistance in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [59483]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales.

The LSC does not record the number of people who receive legal aid, but instead records the number of 'acts of assistance'. One individual may receive a number of separate acts of assistance, and one act of assistance can help more than one person.

The following table shows the numbers of acts of assistance delivered by legal aid providers with postcodes falling within Bexleyheath and Crayford. All acts of assistance are based on the solicitor's location, which may not reflect where the client is based. The data are only available by financial and not calendar year.

Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency

	Crime lower claims	Legal help new matter starts	Civil rep. certificates issues	Crime higher cases
2008-09	2,713	666	325	291
2009-10	3,051	701	299	339

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for legal aid from residents of Islwyn constituency were granted in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [58995]

Mr Djanogly: Applications for legal aid representation are made to the Legal Services Commission. Not all applications are granted. Applications for legal aid advice are made to individual providers, and we record the number of instances of advice provided, rather than the number of applications made. The number of instances of advice provided for the last 12 months in Islwyn constituency are as set out in following the table. All applications are based on the advice provider's location, which may not reflect where the client is based.

Legal aid volumes by constituency 2009-10

Constituency	Crime lower claims	Legal help new matter starts	Civil rep certificates issues	Crime higher cases
Islwyn	857	1,243	246	52

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many contracts for legal aid services were awarded in Islwyn constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [58996]

Mr Djanogly: Based on the postcode of legal aid providers recorded in the Legal Services Commission's (LSC's) systems, there are currently four active civil and two active crime providers with offices in the Islwyn constituency.

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for legal aid from residents in *(a)* the north-east and *(b)* North West Durham constituency were (i) received and (ii) granted in each of the last three years. [59073]

Mr Djanogly: Applications for legal aid representation are made to the Legal Services Commission. Not all applications are granted. Applications for legal aid advice are made to individual providers, and we record the number of instances of advice provided, rather than the number of applications made.

The number of instances of advice provided for the last three years in the requested areas are as set out in the following tables. These figures are based on the advice provider's location, which may not reflect where the client is based. In respect of the north-east, the figures provided are in respect of the LSC's Newcastle region.

Number of instances of advice provided by constituency—2007-08

Constituency	Crime lower claims	Legal help new matter starts	Civil rep. certificates issues	Crime higher cases
The north-east (Newcastle region)	67,240	49,558	9,372	5,764
North West Durham	1,288	578	188	152

Number of instances of advice provided by constituency—2008-09

Constituency	Crime lower claims	Legal help new matter starts	Civil rep. certificates issues	Crime higher cases
The north-east (Newcastle region)	72,918	53,734	9,307	7,007
North West Durham	1,598	749	147	181

Number of instances of advice provided by constituency—2009-10

Constituency	Crime lower claims	Legal help new matter starts	Civil rep. certificates issues	Crime higher cases
The north-east (Newcastle region)	71,781	50,073	10,376	7,854
North West Durham	1,580	674	160	199

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on legal aid in the Islwyn constituency in 2009-10; and if he will estimate the likely change in the level of expenditure in that area following the implementation of his proposed legal aid reforms. [59155]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested on expenditure in 2009-10 is not readily available and therefore could be provided only at disproportionate cost. For example payments to criminal barristers cannot easily be broken down by the location of the barrister or client.

It is not possible to predict with any degree of accuracy future expenditure in any given geographic area, as this will entirely depend on the nature of the cases that arise in future in that area.

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for legal aid from people living in Aberavon constituency were granted in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [59422]

Mr Djanogly: Applications for legal aid representation are made to the Legal Services Commission. Not all applications are granted. Applications for legal aid advice are made to individual providers, and we record the number of instances of advice provided, rather than the number of applications made. The number of instances of advice provided to people living in the Aberavon constituency are as set out in the following table. We do not as yet have figures for the period 2010-11 so these cover 2009-10 only.

These figures are based on the advice provider's location, which may not reflect where the client is based.

Number of instances of advice provided by constituency, 2009-10

Constituency	*Crime lower claims*	*Legal help new matter starts*	*Civil rep certificates issues*	*Crime higher cases*
Aberavon	1,686	773	349	179

Legal Aid: Disability

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken to ensure that reductions in the legal aid budget do not affect disproportionately disabled people. [58962]

Mr Djanogly: Initial equality impact assessments (EIAs) were published alongside the consultation paper in November 2010. Updated versions of these EIAs will be published alongside the Government's response to consultation, and these will contain details of impacts on disabled people, as well as any mitigations identified.

Legal Aid: Mental Health

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to ensure that the Legal Services Commission provides a proportionate distribution of new matter starts for mental health cases in North and South Wales. [58972]

Mr Djanogly: Wales was tendered as a single procurement area for mental health services. The Legal Services Commission (LSC) awarded matter starts based on the location of the offices of the applicant organisations and the volume of work offered from their specific offices.

A total of 2,237 mental health matter starts were awarded to provide service across all areas of Wales. The LSC therefore considers that there is a proportionate distribution of matter starts awards currently, but capacity is also regularly reviewed. If access gaps are identified the LSC can take appropriate action to address this.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make an assessment of changes within the prison establishment following the introduction of third sector providers working therapeutically on prisoner rehabilitation with prisoners, their children and families; and if he will make a statement. [58927]

Mr Blunt: As set out in the Green Paper and the Ministry of Justice Business Plan 2011-15 the Ministry of Justice and National Offender Management Service are committed to ensure that the commissioning of services, such as rehabilitation services involving prisoners and their children and families, is open to providers from all sectors, including those in the third sector providers.

Assessment of individual projects will be undertaken on a case-by-case basis.

Prisons: Education

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the National Offender Management Service concerning prisoner education, including Open University opportunities. [59423]

Mr Blunt: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Ministry of Justice recently conducted a joint review of offender learning in England. The resulting report 'Making Prisons Work: Skills for Rehabilitation', published last month, sets out a reform plan for offender learning.

My hon Friend the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, set out the Government's position on higher education for prisoners in England in his answer on 8 June 2011, *Official Report;* column 394W. The nature of the changes and how these will be implemented are currently being agreed between BIS and the Ministry of Justice.

Prisons: Televisions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which prisons provide communal television facilities for prisoners; [59432]

(2) if he will consider increasing the charges for in-cell televisions in prisons; [59433]

(3) how much each prison has spent on television equipment in each of the last 10 years. [59434]

Mr Blunt: As I explained in my reply to the hon. Member on 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 161W, prisoners have access to television in-cell as part of local incentives and earned privileges schemes. Prisoners rent the televisions from the prison service for a weekly rental charge of £1 per set per week or part week. The rental charge is deducted from prisoner's earnings which average £9.60 per week. The revenue from this charge is used to purchase new and replacement televisions and the costs associated with the switch off of the analogue TV signal. There are no plans to raise this charge.

In addition to television in-cell prisoners may have access to television in communal areas. The National Offender Management Service does not record centrally which prison establishments provide communal television. However, most public sector prisons provide communal television viewing facilities. The National Offender Management Service Central Accounting System does not record separately expenditure on television equipment purchased for use in communal viewing areas. To identify these costs would require examining each establishment's payment records and this would incur a disproportionate cost.

Probation

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation trust mergers or amalgamations in England and Wales are planned for *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [59380]

Mr Blunt: The Government are not aware at present of plans by probation trusts to amalgamate or merge during this period.

Reoffenders

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what arrangements are in place for agencies involved in the payment by results schemes in Lewisham and Croydon to co-ordinate their activities; [58963]

(2) what steps he plans to take to monitor any change in reoffending rates arising from the payment by results schemes in Lewisham and Croydon; [58964]

(3) what reduction in reoffending rates will need to be achieved in order for the agencies to receive additional resources under the payment by results schemes in Lewisham and Croydon; [58965]

(4) whether there are any restrictions placed upon the agencies involved in the payment by results schemes in Lewisham and Croydon regarding the receipt of additional funds; [58966]

(5) whether he has any plans to expand the payment by results schemes in Lewisham and Croydon to other areas; [58967]

(6) what recent assessment he has made of arrest rates over the period of the payment by results schemes in Lewisham and Croydon. [58968]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice announced in the Green Paper, "Breaking the Cycle", published in December 2010, that it will test a local approach to payment by results. The aim is to encourage local statutory partners to reduce crime and reoffending, and enable them to reinvest any savings that their success realises for the justice system in further activity to prevent reoffending in their communities.

The Ministry of Justice will run pilots for two years in Manchester City region and across a number of London boroughs, including Croydon and Lewisham.

The local approach focuses on whether more effective working to reduce crime and reoffending can result in reductions in demand on the justice system. The Ministry of Justice has developed a model to measure the demand on the justice system during the pilots and make payments to the pilot areas accordingly.

Partners in the pilot boroughs are developing their delivery plans for the pilots, and have the freedom to approach the pilots according to their local needs and priorities. The London Crime Reduction Board (LCRB) is supportive of the opportunity to test this justice reinvestment approach in London. The members of the LCRB Delivery Management Group, including the Metropolitan Police Service, London Probation Trust, Greater London Authority, Metropolitan Police Authority and London councils, have agreed to support the pilot areas to unlock barriers to delivery, identify opportunities for collaboration, and share good practice.

The Ministry of Justice will evaluate the pilots to understand how they are associated with changes in demand on the criminal justice system. This will include the monitoring of reoffending and crime rates, as well as a wider range of criminal justice system data, including policing trends, and this will be finalised as part of the evaluation approach for the pilot. The Ministry of Justice has done some analysis of demand in setting up the pilots, but there are no projections moving forward.

The Ministry of Justice will use the learning from the pilots to help to inform proposals for future reforms to the system, alongside the other payment by results pilots. There are no immediate plans to expand the approach to other areas.

EDUCATION

Careers Summit

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will publish the proposed invitation list for his Department's careers summit on 15 July 2011; [59557]

(2) if he will publish the agenda for his Department's careers summit on 15 July 2011. [59558]

Mr Gibb: The invitation list and agenda for the careers summit on 15 July 2011 are currently being finalised and will be published on the Local Government Association's Communities of Practice website in due course. A forum focused on young people's careers guidance has been established to enable local authorities to share examples of good practice during the transition to new arrangements.

Discretionary Learner Support Fund: Barnsley

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on what date schools and further education colleges in Barnsley will be informed of their allocation of discretionary learner support for 2011-12. [57990]

Mr Gibb: We are finalising details of the allocations for the 16-19 Bursary Fund following the consultation on the new arrangements, which closed on 20 May. The Young People's Learning Agency will issue allocations to schools, colleges and training providers shortly.

Outdoor Education

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations his Department has received from the outdoor learning sector on the number of field centres available to schools. [59014]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 June 2011]:* The Department has received no representations about the number of field centres available to schools.

The Government wants to ensure that schools have the maximum freedom to teach in the way that they judge best for their pupils, including through activities outside the classroom. We know that many schools value education outside the classroom and may choose to use field centres, usually provided by local authorities, either to support the curriculum or meet the wider needs of their pupils.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the number of field centres available to schools. [59015]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 June 2010]:* The Department does not assess the adequacy of the number of field study centres available to schools. Field centres are often provided by local authorities or local charities; schools are best placed to determine how field centres can best be used to support their pupils.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects his Department's internal review of personal, social, health and economic education, including sex and relationship education, to *(a)* conclude and *(b)* have its findings published; and if he will make a statement. [59332]

Mr Gibb: We will set a deadline to complete the review of personal, social, health and economic education when the remit is published. At that stage we will also set out our plans for publishing the findings.

Schools: Construction

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many new *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary, *(c)* special needs and *(d)* other schools were built in each of the last 10 years. [59224]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 10 June 2010]:* In the last 10 years, as of May 2011, 148 new build schools procured through the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and academies programmes were built. These included secondary, pupil referral unit, all-through and post-16 schools. In addition, during this time, 33 new special educational needs schools were built.

	New build mainstream schools procured via the BSF and Academies programme	*New build SEN schools procured via the BSF and Academies programme*
2006	0	3
2007	4	0
2008	20	5
2009	33	9
2010	63	9
2011	28	7

Data received from local authorities in April 2010 showing the number of new build primary schools due to be completed by the end of May 2011 indicated a total of 118 new schools[1]. As these figures are local authority estimates it would not be accurate to split them into individual years.

Prior to Partnerships for Schools being given the remit to deliver the BSF programme, there were 626 PFI schools (both primary and secondary). Some of these schools will have included an element of refurbishment (as opposed to being 100% new build). Some of the schools will have been largely refurbishments.

Schools: Standards

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools fall below minimum standards in each local education authority. [55917]

Mr Gibb: The number of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools that fall below the minimum standard (not including those that boycotted the 2010 SATs) per LA has been placed in the House Libraries.

WALES

Research Councils

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what recent discussions she has had with UK research councils on steps to ensure that Welsh higher education institutions receive adequate research and development funding; and if she will make a statement; [58831]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with Ministers in the Welsh Government on steps to ensure that funding distributed by UK research councils is distributed appropriately within Wales; and if she will make a statement. [58832]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales, discusses a range of issues with the First Minister. The Secretary of State and I also regularly meet representatives of higher education institutions and other stakeholders to discuss a variety of issues, including the importance of funding for research and development in Wales. For instance, I visited the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) in August last year to see the high-quality research it carries out.

I welcome the fact that valuable assets, including IBERS, continue to receive significant funding for research from the UK research councils and additional financial support from the UK Government and the Welsh Government as well as the European Union.

Research Councils UK is the strategic partnership of the UK's seven research councils. The distribution of research funding by research councils is judged on an individual basis and funding decisions are made on the basis of an independent, expert peer review.

The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales wrote on 3 June to the heads of the higher education institutions and the principals of directly-funded further education colleges in Wales, setting out details of research capital funding totalling over £4 million that will be provided in 2011-12 to qualifying institutions. This funding is provided in part by the Department of Business Innovation and Skills and the Welsh Government.

PRIME MINISTER

Childhood and Families Task Force

Mr Lammy: To ask the Prime Minister, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hemsworth of 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 24W, on the childhood and families task force, if he will direct the Cabinet Secretary to add the childhood and families task force to the Cabinet Office list of Cabinet Committees; on what dates the task force has met; and whether the task force has been established for the duration of the present Parliament. [59488]

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[1] As explained, these data were collated from local authorities in April 2010 and figures have been calculated from their estimates.

The Prime Minister: The childhood and families task force, which I chair, has met frequently since it was created in June 2010. It is not a formal Cabinet Committee. Its role is to identify and prioritise a small number of specific policy proposals that will make the biggest difference to children and families. The work of the task force is ongoing and involves Ministers and officials across Government, including from the Treasury, the Departments for Education, Business, Health and Work and Pensions.

Devolution: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Prime Minister what undertakings he gave to the First Minister of Scotland at the most recent Joint Ministerial Committee meeting in response to requests for further devolution of powers in respect of *(a)* borrowing, *(b)* the Crown Estate, *(c)* corporation tax, *(d)* excise duty, *(e)* broadcasting and *(f)* EU negotiations. [59646]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Lady to the communiqué which was released following the Joint Ministerial Committee meeting on Wednesday, 8 June 2011. This is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2011/06/joint-ministerial-committee-communique-64530

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Crown Relocations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many contracts his Department holds with Crown Relocations; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58645]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not hold any contracts with Crown Relocations.

G4S

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many contracts his Department holds with G4S; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58677]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not hold any contracts with G4S.

IBM

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many contracts his Department holds with IBM; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58691]

Gregory Barker: Since its creation in October 2008, the Department has made payments of £187,138 to IBM in relation to the secondment to the Department of three IBM consultants to provide technical assistance on offshore renewables, carbon budgets and energy innovation work.

Office for Nuclear Regulation

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the transfer of ministerial responsibility for the Office of Nuclear Regulation; and if he will make a statement. [58623]

Charles Hendry: I have not held any meetings with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, regarding the transfer of ministerial responsibility for the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR).

The ONR was established as an agency of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on 1 April, pending legislation to create a new independent statutory body outside of the HSE to regulate the nuclear power industry. Department for Work and Pensions and Department for Energy and Climate Change officials are currently developing the detail of the planned legislation. This will encompass the governance framework for the ONR, including departmental sponsorship arrangements.

Serco

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many contracts his Department holds with Serco; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58655]

Gregory Barker: Since its creation in October 2008, the Department has made payments of £411,512 to Serco. £385,000 related to a contract to provide advice on the New Nuclear build programme. The remaining £27,000 related to various one-off services. Information is not available on the lifetime value of these contracts.

TREASURY

Income Tax : Personal Allowance

Mr Offord: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on low-income families of the increase in the income tax personal allowance in April 2011. [58886]

Mr Gauke: In the June 2010 Budget the Government announced a £1,000 increase in the income tax personal allowance for those aged under 65, taking it from £6,475 in 2010-11 to £7,475 in 2011-12. HM Revenue and Customs estimates that this will remove over 800,000 of the lowest income taxpayers from income tax altogether and will benefit around 23 million basic rate taxpayers by an average of £160 a year in real terms. This is part of our long-term objective to increase the personal allowance to £10,000, with real terms steps in that direction every year.

Bank Levy

Paul Flynn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had on implementation of a financial transaction tax at a global level. [58945]

Mr Hoban: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr Wright) on 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 357W.

Business Growth Fund

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much he estimates is to be made available through the business growth fund following the withdrawal of the financial contribution proposed by Santander. [58231]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 8 June 2011:* I have been asked to reply.

The amount committed to the business growth fund by the banks remains £2.5 billion. The fund is fully capitalised and organised by the remaining banks, who have demonstrated their commitment to its aims and are already sourcing investment opportunities following the fund's launch on 19 May. The business growth fund is a long-term intervention, funded fully by the banks, and designed to provide finance for firms seeking growth capital—helping to fund the recovery—which fall between initiatives for small business support and those for larger companies.

Child Benefit

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many recipients of child benefit were resident in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in the latest period for which figures are available. [58975]

Mr Gauke: The latest information on the number of families receiving child benefit, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis August 2010". This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/chb-geog-aug10.pdf

As of August 2010, these are the figures for the number of families in receipt of child benefit:

	Number
England	6,562,705
Wales	372,985
Scotland	621,615
Northern Ireland	240,985

Additionally, these are the figures for the number of children for which child benefit is claimed for each of these regions:

	Number
England	11,495,395
Wales	642,965
Scotland	1,031,795
Northern Ireland	443,110

Corporation Tax: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of revenue to be raised from corporation tax in Scotland in each of the next five years. [59704]

Mr Gauke: A UK corporation tax forecast is produced by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR). The OBR does not produce a regional forecast for Scotland.

European Stability Mechanism

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials in his Department have been assigned to work on the creation of a permanent eurozone-only European stability mechanism. [59376]

Mr Hoban: The UK is participating in the discussions on the design of the European stability mechanism (ESM), as are all member states, in line with the conclusions of the December meeting of the European Council. Although the ESM will be established by euro area member states, issues considered in the discussions on its design may have impacts that could affect the European Union as a whole, and therefore the UK.

As a result, a range of officials are involved in this work as part of their usual responsibilities.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings he has had with his EU counterparts to discuss a permanent eurozone-only European stability mechanism. [59377]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

The UK is participating in the discussions on the design of the European stability mechanism (ESM), as are all member states, in line with the conclusions of the December neeting of the European Council. Although the ESM will be established by euro area member states, issues considered in the discussions on its design may have impacts that could affect the European Union as a whole, and therefore the UK.

National Insurance

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress he has made on his consultation on merging the operation of income tax and national insurance; and if he will make a statement. [59645]

Mr Gauke: The Budget announced that the Government will consult on the integration of the operation of income tax and national insurance contributions. A consultation document will be issued later this year.

Office of Tax Simplification

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Office of Tax Simplification review of tax administration for small business includes consideration of VAT registration; and when he expects the Office of Tax Simplification to report its findings. [58976]

Mr Gauke: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Office of Tax Simplification (OTS), and I have asked the OTS to reply.

Letter from John Whiting, dated June 2011:

Guto Bebb MP has submitted a written parliamentary question about the tax administration strand of the Office of Tax Simplification's final report for the review of small business taxation. The question was:

"To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether the Office of Tax Simplification review of tax administration for small business includes consideration of VAT registration; and when he expects the Office of Tax Simplification to report its findings."

The OTS's interim report on small business taxation was published on 10 March 2011. The report included a short section (paragraphs 4.61-4.66) on VAT, which did address the question of the registration threshold. Our conclusion was: "On balance we think the registration threshold should stay as it is, though it is an area that is worth further study."

The Chancellor responded to this report in Budget 2011, and commissioned the OTS to look into tax administration in the final report on small business taxation. On 9 May 2011, the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury wrote to the OTS Chairman, Rt Hon Michael Jack, outlining the Government's response and setting out priorities for the next stage of the Office's work in more detail[1].

As set out in the Exchequer Secretary's letter, the remit of the work on tax administration will require the OTS to "examine closely small businesses' experience of tax administration and their contact with HMRC at key stages of their annual cycle" and to "give specific consideration of the issues involved in starting and growing a new business." The terms of reference for this work are attached in the annex of this document.

Over the summer, the OTS will gather evidence and conduct research to determine the areas of tax administration that ought to be prioritised. The operation of VAT registration is very much within the remit, although we understand that HMRC is already working hard to improve the registration process. As highlighted in the interim report, the OTS is also interested in the administrative difficulties related to VAT and international trade that pose particular problems for small businesses.

An exact date for publication has not yet been determined, but the OTS has been asked to deliver recommendations on tax administration for small business ahead of Budget 2012. We would be happy to inform the questioner when the report is published.

I hope this is helpful, and would like to thank Mr Bebb for his interest in our work.

[1] This letter has been published on the OTS website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/ots_xstletter_small_business_tax_review_090511.pdf

Pregnant Women: Grants

Julie Elliott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many health in pregnancy grants were made in Sunderland Central constituency in 2009-10. [58909]

Mr Gauke: Geographical analysis of the number of people benefiting from the health in pregnancy grant has not previously been undertaken and therefore this information could be made available only at disproportionate cost.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the *(a)* total updated value of private sector investment in private finance initiative contracts in each Department since 1990 and *(b)* cost to the public purse of (i) current and (ii) planned private finance initiative contracts in (A) 2010-11 and (B) each of the next five financial years. [58585]

Danny Alexander: HM Treasury does not hold historical data on the level of private sector investment in PFI. However the capital value of signed projects may be used as an estimate. The following table lists the capital value of all UK PFI projects which have been signed since 1992.

Department	*Capital value of contracts (£ million)*	*Number of contracts*
Cabinet Office	12.0	1
Crown Prosecution Service	18.2	1
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	58.2	2
Department for Communities and Local Government	2,116.5	64
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	307.9	16
Department for Education	7,757.8	162
Department for Energy and Climate Change	4.4	1
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	3,058.9	24
Department for Transport	6,643.3	56
Department for Work and Pensions	1,085.7	4
Department of Health	11,886.6	116
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	91.0	2
GCHQ	331.0	1
HM Revenue and Customs	622.0	8
HM Treasury	141.0	1
Home Office	848.2	25
Ministry of Defence	9,064.3	46
Ministry of Justice	798.6	23
Northern Ireland Executive	1,785.9	37
Scottish Government	5,703.8	84
Welsh Assembly	543.9	24
Total	52,879.2	698

The costs of signed PFI contracts for 2010-11 and the following five financial years are as follows. These are not discounted.

Financial year	*Cost (£ million)*
2010-11	7,982.9
2011-12	8,569.2
2012-13	9,064.0
2013-14	9,497.2
2014-15	9,646.3
2015-16	9,699.8

There were 61 PFI projects in procurement at the time of the last PFI data collection (March 2011). The cost of these across financial years will not be confirmed until the final contracts are signed. Once signed, we will collect details, including costs, in the periodic PFI data collection exercises and publish them on the HM Treasury website.

The PFI data above are provided by Departments and published on HM Treasury's website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

The data were last updated in March 2011.

Rent a Room Scheme

Bill Esterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the extent to which allowances under the Rent a Room scheme have been aligned with increases in the level of rents; and whether he has any plans to review this scheme to ensure that it remains effective. [59554]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the Government's response to the consultation 'Investment in the private rented sector', available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/investment_in_the_uk_private_rented_sector_response_summary.pdf

Revenue and Customs: Debt Collection

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what due diligence process his Department followed in respect of the companies it recently appointed as debt collection agents; and if he will make a statement. [59644]

Mr Gauke: HMRC undertook a formal tender process in compliance with the public contract regulations.

Tender responses were examined on a range of criteria by a team of evaluators and site visits were also made to the appointed debt collection agencies as part of the process.

Tax Evasion: Tax Avoidance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent discussions he has had with his G20 counterparts on the adoption of country-by-country reporting on levels of tax evasion and avoidance; [58897]

(2) what his policy is on the adoption by the G20 of country-by-country reporting on levels of tax evasion and avoidance. [58898]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor has engaged with G20 counterparts on a range of issues related to tax and development, including issues around tax evasion and avoidance, and international rules on transparency in the extractives industry.

Work by the OECD tax and development task force on the costs and benefits of country-by-country reporting is ongoing. The Government support this work and hope it will provide solid, practical evidence which Governments—including those in the G20—can use to assess different approaches to transparency.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is on sharing of information between national tax authorities for the purposes of tackling tax avoidance and evasion across national frontiers; [58981]

(2) what discussions he has had with his G20 counterparts on the sharing of information between national tax authorities for the purposes of tackling tax avoidance and evasion across national frontiers. [58982]

Mr Gauke: The UK Government are strongly committed to exchange of information to combat tax avoidance and evasion. We have agreements in place with over 100 countries to meet this aim. Discussions in the G20 have focused on ensuring that all jurisdictions implement the internationally agreed standard on exchange of information for tax purposes.

Welfare Tax Credits: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Warrington North constituency were in receipt of tax credits in financial years *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and what the average amount received per family was in each year. [59342]

Mr Gauke: Statistics for the financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12 are not yet available. The latest information on the number of families receiving tax credits is for the tax year 2009-2010 in an HMRC publication called 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics, Finalised annual awards 2009-10, Geographical analysis'. This provides data on tax credit uptake by each parliamentary constituency and also gives the average amount received per family that year. This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-final-awards-may11.pdf

The total number of families in receipt of tax credits in Warrington North in 2009-2010 was 5,500 and the average value that was received per family was £4,128.

HOME DEPARTMENT

General Register Office: Birth Certificates

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to restrict access to copies of birth certificates held at the General Register Office. [58860]

Damian Green: The General Register Office (GRO) is obliged under statute to provide certified copies of birth entries (certificates) provided that sufficient information has been given to identify the birth entry.

GRO is committed to modernisation and continues to look for opportunities to make improvements.

In the meantime, GRO continues to work with a number of Government Departments and law enforcement agencies (including the National Fraud Authority) to combat identity fraud.

Asylum: Grants

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1216W, on asylum: grants, how much has been allocated to each charity and non-governmental organisation listed in 2011-12. [59222]

Damian Green *[holding answer 10 June 2011]:* The amount of funding allocated in grants to charities and non-governmental bodies involved in asylum matters for 2011-12 is shown in the following table. Some of the assisted voluntary returns schemes whose costs are included in these figures apply to other migrants as well as asylum-seekers.

PQ 59222-Annex

Grant Recipients	*Nature of Grant/Project*	*2011-12 (£)*
Migrant Helpline	One-Stop Service	131,698
	Wraparound	450,929
Refugee Action	One-Stop Service	1,116,580

PQ 59222-Annex

Grant Recipients	*Nature of Grant/Project*	*2011-12 (£)*
	Wraparound	406,340
	Assisted Voluntary Returns	10,900,000
	Key Worker Pilot	164,000
Refugee Council	Strategic funding	174,340
	One-Stop Service	1,857,264
	Wraparound	893,606
	Children's Panel	800,000
Scottish Refugee Council	One-Stop Service	399,405
	Wraparound	228,930
	Key Worker Pilot	17,680
Welsh Refugee Council	One-Stop Service	327,904
	Wraparound	187,344
	Key Worker Pilot	7,980

Notes:
(i) figures for 2011-12 are taken from the expenditure budget of the UK Border Agency.

Departmental Contracts

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which companies her Department has contracts; what the monetary value is of each such contract; what the *(a)* commencement and *(b)* expiry dates are of each contract; how many unsuccessful bidders there were for each such contract; and how much has been paid in penalties for any under-performance in respect of each such contract. [58851]

Damian Green: In the financial year 2010-11, the Home Department, inclusive of Executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), spent £2.9 billion with over 3,500 suppliers. Information to answer each other part of the question is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All tender opportunities above *Official Journal* of the European Union (OJEU) level are placed on the Tenders Electronic Daily (TED) portal. Since April 2009, tender opportunities, irrelevant of value, have been published via our procurement and commercial toolkit (PCT) e-sourcing portal on the Home Office website. In addition, all opportunities and tender documents for tenders over £10,000 have been placed on the Cabinet Office's contracts finder portal since November 2010, together with placed contracts over £10,000 since January 2011.

All expenditure over £25,000 is published on a monthly basis within the Transparency section on the Home Office website. This is linked to the "Opening Up Government" data.gov.uk website, containing all Government departmental spend data.

Drugs: Crime

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 301W, on drugs, when the terms of the Government's annual review of the 2010 drugs strategy will be finalised; if she will place a copy of the terms in the Library when finalised; and when she expects to publish the findings of that review. [58355]

James Brokenshire: The inter-ministerial group on drugs agreed on 23 May that the annual review for 2010-11 of the drugs strategy would:

Review the strategy a full year after implementation with a view to publication by the end of March 2012;

Involve the voluntary and community sector in the review process as appropriate; and

Be a status update on year one on progress across the strategy supported by appropriate evidence.

There are no terms of reference for the review beyond those established above and in ongoing discussions with partners across Government. The terms of reference for future years will be agreed on an annual basis.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings the Minister of State for Immigration has had with interested parties on the operation of tier-4 visa students. [59448]

Damian Green: I have regular meetings with a wide range of interested parties about the policy and operation of tier-4 visas. Over the last six months, these include meetings with various governmental and parliamentary colleagues, as well as with Universities UK, the Association of Colleges (AoC), the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), the Hansard Society, Professor Edward Acton, Lord Boswell, the all-party parliamentary group of universities, Sir James Dyson, Sir Andrew Likierman and Migration Watch.

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what separate arrangements apply to colleges and schools which have been designated as highly trusted sponsors rating for tier-4 visas which do not apply to colleges and schools which have not been so designated; and if she will make a statement. [59449]

Damian Green: As set out in the statement of intent published on 31 March 2011, all educational institutions must obtain both highly trusted status (HTS) by April 2012 and a current and satisfactory full inspection or audit by one of the eight listed bodies or their equivalents in the devolved Administrations by December 2012 in order to sponsor new international students. As a transitional measure, all sponsors that do not meet new educational oversight requirements and/or do not have highly trusted sponsor status from 21 April 2011 are subject to a limit on the number of confirmations of acceptance for studies (CAS) they can issue to international students.

Frontex: Greece

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assistance the UK has provided to Frontex operations in Greece in the last three years. [59351]

Damian Green: The information is as follows:

In 2010, the UK participated in:

Joint Operation Poseidon Land, which targets illegal migration on the land borders from Turkey to Greece; by deploying a debriefing expert with an interpreter for two months.

Joint Operation Poseidon Sea, which targets irregular migration by sea from Turkey to Greece; by deploying a debriefing expert with an interpreter for one month.

Pilot Project Attica, to increase the Greek authorities' capabilities to return third country nationals with no right of stay in the EU; by deploying a returns liaison expert to Pilot Project Attica for two weeks.

In 2009, the UK participated in:

Joint Operation Poseidon, which targets illegal and irregular migration by land and sea from Turkey to Greece; by deploying a debriefing expert with an interpreter for 10 months.

In 2008, the UK participated in:

Joint Operation Poseidon, which targets illegal and irregular migration by land and sea from Turkey to Greece; by deploying an intelligence expert for one month, a detection technology expert for one month and a debriefing expert with an interpreter for one month.

G4S

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts her Department holds with G4S; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value is of each such contract. [58668]

Damian Green: The Home Department, inclusive of its Executive agencies, holds the following seven contracts with G4S:

(a) Purpose	*(b) Contract value (£ million)*	*Contract length (years)*
Transporting of asylum claimants and related services	16.4	5
Provision of temporary accommodation for Immigrants prior to removal—UKBA	81.4	8
Provision of temporary accommodation for Immigrants prior to removal—UKBA	38.2	8
Provision of temporary accommodation for Immigrants prior to removal—UKBA	29.09	8
Access administration system for Criminal Records Bureau	0.002	1
Access administration system for the Identity and Passport Service	0.34	10
Collection and secure transportation of high risk high value goods	1.2	4

Harassment

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of prevention of harassment letters issued by police forces. [59481]

James Brokenshire: No assessment of the effectiveness of prevention of harassment letters issued by police forces has been made by the Home Office. However, tackling violence against women and girls, which includes stalking and harassment, is a key priority for the Government. The Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) held the first joint national stalking conference in December 2010 to promote the sharing of best practice between the police and the Crown Prosecution Service. We have also committed to review the impact of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 and we continue to fund the national stalking helpline and lead a monthly national stalking strategy group to support the quarterly ACPO stalking working group. We also strongly supported the recent national stalking awareness week held from 11 April, which was jointly organised by the three main charities that work to prevent stalking, Protection Against Stalking, the Suzy Lamplugh Trust and Network for Surviving Stalking.

Human Trafficking

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the inter-departmental ministerial group on human trafficking has met since 6 May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [58951]

Damian Green: The Government recognises the importance of monitoring the progress of anti-trafficking efforts in the UK and our international obligations.

The inter-departmental ministerial group on trafficking met in February 2011 and will meet twice a year. An officials group will also meet twice a year. Discussions at the group will reflect ongoing developments in trafficking policy.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police authority area of England and Wales are trained to deal with cases involving allegations of human trafficking. [58954]

Damian Green: Combating human trafficking is part of core police business. All new police officers receive mandatory training on trafficking and existing officers have access to training material.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who have been identified as victims of trafficking have been deported from the UK in each of the last five years. [58956]

Damian Green: Since April 2009 the UK has had in place a multi-agency framework for identifying and protecting victims of trafficking—the national referral mechanism (NRM).

There is currently no record of any enforced return of individuals conclusively found to be victims of trafficking under the NRM. However, being a victim does not automatically entitle someone to remain in the UK indefinitely. Where a recognised victim of trafficking does not meet established criteria the expectation must be that they return to their own country. In all cases voluntary departure is the preferred option and repatriation would only be enforced where it was deemed safe and appropriate to do so in accordance with the UK's domestic and international obligations.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the merits of establishing an independent rapporteur on human trafficking; and if she will make a statement. [58958]

Damian Green: The UK is already compliant with this measure through equivalent mechanisms in the form of the UK Human Trafficking Centre as the central repository for data and the inter-departmental ministerial group for oversight.

As I made clear in the House of Commons debate on the EU directive on human trafficking on 9 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 978, the Government recognise that there are concerns that the function should be carried out by an independent body and will keep these arguments under consideration.

Human Trafficking: Children

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the merits of establishing a system of guardianship for children identified as victims of human trafficking; and if she will make a statement. [58957]

Damian Green: Combating child trafficking and ensuring the protection and safeguarding of victims of this crime is a key priority for this Government. We have therefore considered the introduction of a system of guardianship, but believe that the current system is appropriate and that corporate responsibility for child trafficking victims should remain with the relevant local authority.

Under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that they safeguard and promote the welfare of all children regardless of their immigration status or nationality. Under these arrangements, looked-after children are provided with access to the services necessary to meet all their needs, be they in relation to education, accommodation, psychological or health needs. In addition to a social worker who will set a care plan for each child and independent reviewing officer, a looked after child will also have access to an independent advocate.

We believe that this responsibility should remain with the local authorities and that the addition of a further 'guardian' to this framework risks adding another level of unhelpful complexity to existing arrangements.

Human Trafficking: Children in Care

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has considered the merits of requiring local authorities to publish figures for *(a)* the number of trafficked children they have in their care and *(b)* how long they remain in their care. [58727]

Damian Green: Local authorities are required to record the numbers of looked-after children within their area. These figures are sent to the Department for Education annually for publication. These national figures do not include the detail of those children who may have been trafficked although local authorities have processes in place to identify the numbers of trafficked children within their area.

While the Government do not require individual local authorities to publish this detailed information locally at a national level, we are building up our intelligence on numbers of trafficked children through the national referral mechanism, the work of the UK Human Trafficking Centre and the Child Exploitation and Online Protections Centre's yearly strategic threat assessments.

The forthcoming human trafficking strategy will include a range of measures aimed at strengthening our ability to combat child trafficking and support those who have been trafficked.

IBM

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts her Department holds with IBM; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value is of each such contract. [58686]

Damian Green: The Home Department, inclusive of its Executive agencies, holds the following five contracts with IBM:

(a) Purpose	*(b) Contract value (£ million)*	*Contract length*
To operate the system for maintaining a watch list of passenger data	5.8	1 year 10 months
To improve the resilience of the system for maintaining a watch list of passenger data	27.3	2 years 11 months
Development and implementation of UKBA case working system	62.7	5 years
Development, implementation and replacement of the system to store fingerprints of immigrants and asylum seekers	191.1	7 years
Support and maintenance of a risk management software tool	0.1	6 years 9 months

Immigrants: Offenders

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were granted indefinite leave to remain under the terms of paragraph 289A of the Immigration Rules in each year since 2005; and how many such people were identified as having a criminal record at the time indefinite leave to remain was granted in each such year. [58204]

Damian Green: Figures from official statistics, obtained from the report 'Control of Immigration Statistics United Kingdom 2009' (published 26 August 2010) provide information for the period 2006-09 only.

The following table shows the most recent published data for applicants granted settlement due to domestic violence after having leave to remain granted as a spouse or partner of a person present and settled in the United Kingdom.

Persons granted settlement due to domestic violence after leave to remain granted as a spouse/partner of a person present and settled in the UK

	Number
2006	305
2007	275
2008	645
2009	745

Note:
http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/hosb1510/hosb1510?view=Binary

Unfortunately, it is not possible to obtain statistical data to identify how many of the applicants who were granted indefinite leave to remain between 2005 and 2011 had a criminal record at the time when indefinite leave to remain (ILR) was granted.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who applied for indefinite leave to remain under the terms of paragraph 289A of the Immigration Rules had their application rejected because they had a criminal record in each year since 2005. [58205]

Damian Green: It is not possible to obtain statistical data to identify how many people who applied for indefinite leave to remain under paragraph 289A of the Immigration Rules had their application rejected because they had a criminal record.

Immigration

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department dealt with immigration cases in each of the last 10 years; what the average caseload for each immigration officer was in each of those years; and what the average time taken to process a case was in each of those years. [58853]

Damian Green: A complete response to this question is not possible as much of the required information is not readily available or held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Therefore, the response is limited to information about: UK Border Agency staff numbers (employed by the Home Office immigration and nationality directorate until 31 March 2007; and the Border and Immigration Agency until 31 March 2008); applications and cases; and service standards.

The following table provides details of agency staff numbers from 2003 to 2011. For 2007 onwards, the table splits staff between front-line and corporate services. Front-line staff deal with immigration cases overseas (visas); at the border (arriving passengers); and in the UK (permission to stay). This distinction cannot be made for the period before 2007.

Number

					As at March				
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
Frontline	—	—	—	—	16,423	16,114	22,758	22,822	21,080
Corporate services	—	—	—	—	2,414	2,041	1,732	1,645	1,501
Total	12,440	14,891	16,869	17,203	18,838	18,154	24,490	24,467	22,580

Note:
The increase between 2008-09 is the result of HMRC detection staff joining the UK Border Agency.

In the period 2005-06 to 2010-11, agency staff decided an average of around 2.5 million visa cases per year. Figures are not available before this date.

Data about the number of passenger arrivals for the period 2001 to 2010 are available from the Office for National Statistics (international passenger survey). Over 100 million passengers travel to the UK each year, of which approximately 12.3 million are non-EU/EEA nationals. These cases are subject to control and are therefore interviewed and formally granted permission to enter by agency staff.

Data for the number of "in-country" cases are available from 2007. The Home Office publishes statistics on asylum and settlement cases, including extensions of stay and citizenship cases, on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website. The most recent available data are as follows:

Applications

	Number
2007	708,710
2008	733,220
2009	823,635

Information on the average time taken to process a decision is not available. From July 2011, the agency will publish information on the percentage of migration applications decided within published standards. This will be published in the agency's annual report and accounts and quarterly updates will be available on the Home Office and No.10 websites.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 18 April 2011 with regard to Mrs S. Shafique. [58829]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Gentleman on 9 June 2011.

Serco

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts her Department holds with Serco; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value is of each such contract. [58666]

Damian Green: The Home Department, inclusive of its Executive agencies, holds the following five contracts with Serco:

(a) Purpose	*Contract length*	*(b) Contract value (£ million)*
Provision of scanning and detection services at UK Borders	11 years, 6 months	135
Provision of temporary accommodation in Colnbrook for immigrants prior to removal—UKBA	10 years	188
Provision of temporary accommodation in Yarl's Wood for immigrants prior to removal—UKBA	8 years	99
Provide and maintain confidential IT network[1]	10 years	70

(a) Purpose	*Contract length*	*(b) Contract value (£ million)*
System interface to capture passenger data from airlines and house the National Border Targeting Centre building and facilities[2]	2 years	28.9

[1] In response to parliamentary question 53136 a figure of £28 million was provided. This was based on a review of a contract extension and should have covered the whole life contract which is now presented.

[2] In response to parliamentary question 53136 a figure of £42 million was provided. Negotiations have resulted in a lower contract.

Shoplifting

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of shoplifting on retail stores; and what steps she is taking to reduce levels of shoplifting. [58438]

James Brokenshire: The latest police recorded crime figures, in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Crime in England and Wales 2009/10", show that there were 306,602 shoplifting offences in the 12 months to December 2010. This is a 3% reduction on the 316,297 offences in the 12 months to December 2009. The British Retail Consortium's Annual Crime Survey 2010 estimated the cost to the industry from all retail crime at £1.1 billion per annum.

The Home Office co-chairs the national retail crime steering group, the national partnership to tackle retail crime. Tackling shoplifting forms one aspect of the work plan and work is under way on a number of strands to tackle shoplifting, including more effective design, crime prevention, enforcement, and strengthening partnership working between businesses, law enforcement agencies and the voluntary sector.

UK Border Agency

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons *(a)* the Union flag and *(b)* a portrait of Her Majesty the Queen is not displayed at entry points to the UK in premises administered by the UK Border Agency; and if she will make a statement. [59397]

Damian Green: United Kingdom Government Departments have the freedom to fly the Union flag on their buildings in line with guidelines set out by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. Ports of entry are not Government buildings. The premises from which the UK Border Agency (UKBA) operates are all leased from privately owned UK port authorities. In the interests of consistency across the UKBA estate, the agreement of all the companies concerned would need to be obtained in order to display the Union flag and the portrait of the Queen in an agreed location within the terminals and arrival concourses of each port.

Victim Support Schemes

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department provides any funds for schemes to support victims and witnesses of crime which exclude victims of domestic violence. [58414]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has not excluded services for victims of domestic violence from funding streams. As well as the stable four-year funding for independent domestic violence advisers (IDVAs) and multi-agency risk assessment (MARAC) posts, Home Office funding has also been made available to support victims of crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB), including victims of sexual violence and serious youth violence.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has met the Prime Minister to discuss a prohibition on the use of wild animals in circuses. [58209]

Mr Paice: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, meets the Prime Minister from time to time on various issues relating to her Department.

Beer: Industry

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to support micro-breweries. [59443]

Mr Paice: The Government are committed to working with the food and drink industry to help it take full advantage of the potential for growth through overseas trade, including by identifying global market opportunities and tackling barriers to exports. DEFRA has met with the Brewing, Food and Beverage Industry Suppliers Association (BFBi) to discuss the extent to which micro-breweries might be able to take advantage of this potential.

Micro-breweries already qualify for small brewers relief, which provides up to 50% relief on beer duty payable, will now also benefit from the Government's moratorium to exempt small firms with fewer than 10 employees from domestic regulation announced in this Budget. The Government's aim is to ensure that, as far as possible, micro-businesses should be subject to no new domestic regulation after 1 April 2011.

Micro-breweries are also likely to benefit from the Government's support for employment generally and manufacturing in particular, through the introducing of more predictable and lower corporate taxes; cutting through the unnecessary red tape and regulation; increasing access to finance; and focusing on training and apprenticeships to ensure specialist skills are in good supply.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many instances of bovine tuberculosis were reported in east Sussex in each of the last five years. [59057]

Mr Paice: Incidents of bovine TB reported for east Sussex in each of the last five years are as follows:

New TB incidents reported in the year

	Number[1]
2010	14
2009	12
2008	11
2007	14
2006	15

[1] 1 January to 31 December.
Source:
Vetnet—Animal Health Database (downloaded 8 June 2011)

Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to encourage charitable giving by Ministers in her Department. [57127]

Richard Benyon: All Government Ministers have pledged to undertake a 'one day challenge' with a charity or community group of their choice. This is a clear and public commitment by Ministers to give their time to help others. The pledge aims to inspire others to consider how they might be able to support their communities to benefit themselves, as well as their chosen organisations.

Compost: Licensing

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what requirements community groups, schools and small businesses wishing to register for an exemption from the requirement for a compost heap licence are required to fulfil. [56633]

Richard Benyon: The requirements for the registration of a waste operation that is exempt from the need for an environmental permit are set out in paragraph 6 of Schedule 2 to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 and transposes the requirements of the EU waste framework directive. The system of registration of exempt waste operations has been in place since 1994. Any establishment or undertaking, which includes community groups, schools and businesses, must notify the Environment Agency of: their name and address; a description of the waste operation; and the place where the operation is being carried out (by post code or ordnance survey national grid reference point).

Registration of the exemption for 'aerobic composting and associated prior treatment' is free and is valid for three years.

Droughts: Agriculture

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent assessment she has made of the potential effect of levels of rainfall in the south and east of England on *(a)* crop production and *(b)* the prices of (i) grain and (ii) other crops; [58740]

(2) what estimate she has made of the effects on crop yields in the agricultural sector as a result of water shortages in the *(a)* south and *(b)* east of England. [59787]

Mr Paice: It has been the driest spring on record in south-east and central-southern England and the driest across England and Wales since 1990.

While the dry spell is continuing to have a variety of effects on crops with some, particularly on light land, showing the effects of water stress, it remains too early to predict with any certainty what the eventual impact of this particular period of dry weather will be on crop yields. Many factors will continue to combine to affect production and we are working closely with the industry to help farmers in managing and adapting to the changing circumstances.

Ministers have taken a close and hands-on interest in the impacts of the dry spell. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, held a drought summit on 16 May with water companies, farming groups and environment agencies to make sure the country was prepared for drought conditions and to hear first-hand of the impacts being felt. At that summit she asked the Environment Agency to report on the likelihood of a drought in the longer term, and how it might affect our farmers, our food industry and consumers. The Environment Agency now produces weekly drought management bulletins and will report back to the Secretary of State later this month, assessing the likely impacts of prolonged dry weather, including the plans in place to manage drought.

The summit is scheduled to reconvene later this month but, in the interim, the Secretary of State has arranged a meeting of those who get their water from rivers to find immediate steps they can take to make that water go further—not just to deal with the current dry weather, but also to help inform longer-term reliance issues for the future.

Prices of agricultural commodities such as grains are determined on international agricultural markets. As such, any final impact on crop prices will be determined by global weather conditions and their impact on global production, rather than by the impact of drought on UK crop production.

E. coli: Germany

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* her Department's agencies on measures to support the horticulture industry following the recent E. coli outbreak in Germany. [59475]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 13 June 2011]:* DEFRA officials are keeping in close contact with colleagues in the Department of Health, the Food Standards Agency and other Departments as the situation with regard to the E. coli outbreak develops. The outbreak has had a disruptive economic impact on growers and others within the supply chain for fruit and vegetables across the EU, including our domestic industry. Because of this, the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 7 June discussed the need for exceptional measures to address the market situation and to provide financial support for growers affected. Proposals were discussed by Ministers at Council level and considered by officials at the EU Fruit and

Vegetables Management Committee, but no package has yet been agreed for implementation. Discussions will continue on 14 June.

We are discussing with the Rural Payments Agency the implications of the proposed €210 million EU measures, and how a scheme would be implemented.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the financial effects on the horticulture industry of the recent E. coli outbreak in Germany. [59477]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 13 June 2011]:* The outbreak has had a disruptive economic impact on growers and others within the supply chain for fruit and vegetables across the EU, including our domestic industry.

At retail level, prices for domestically produced salad (lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet peppers and courgettes), have remained relatively stable, although demand has declined, with the result that more produce is being sent to the wholesale market, which is experiencing movement in prices. I welcome the support for UK producers shown by the big retailers who have in some cases increased their offering of UK salad produce, in response to consumer demand for our home crop.

One impact of the decision by the Russian Federation to impose a ban on EU fruit and vegetable produce is that surplus produce has been directed to alternative EU markets, including our own. The consequence has been to depress values in the wholesale market, with volumes down, although here again I understand that prices for English produce are faring better than those for imported produce. But the situation continues to develop and the latest indications from our trade organisations are that the market remains depressed.

The impacts of the overall situation are being felt across the EU, and because of this the Agriculture and Fisheries Council discussed on 7 June the need for exceptional measures to address the market situation and to provide financial support for growers affected. Proposals were discussed by Ministers at Council level and considered by officials at the EU Fruit and Vegetables Management Committee, but no package has yet been agreed for implementation. Discussions will continue on 14 June.

We are discussing the implications of the proposed €210 million EU measures with Government Departments and with the key trade organisations and looking with the Rural Payments Agency at how a scheme would be implemented.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect on the agricultural sector of trade bans on fruit and vegetables by *(a)* other EU member states and *(b)* Russia following the recent E. coli outbreak in Germany. [59529]

Mr Paice: UK exports of fruit and vegetables are minimal, with most UK produce sold domestically. The direct impact of a third-country trade ban is therefore minimal. Other member states trade within the single market.

The Russian ban on imports of EU fresh fruit and vegetables has caused market disruption with produce being directed to alternative EU markets, including our own. This has affected values in the wholesale market, but prices for English produce are reported to have fared better than those for imported produce. The market situation continues to develop and the most recent indications from trade organisations point to the market remaining depressed.

Environmental Stewardship Scheme

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which activities will qualify for higher level stewardship payments in years *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14; and if she will make a statement. [54392]

Mr Paice: Higher level stewardship (HLS) will continue to be a discretionary multi-objective scheme targeted at areas that have the potential to deliver high priority environmental benefits. The activities that can be funded by HLS are set out in the scheme handbook. Total spending on HLS will increase by at least 80% over the next three years, and the Department is working to make schemes more effective and better targeted so that farmers can continue to deliver the greatest possible benefits for biodiversity and the natural environment.

Agreements will continue to be selected that meet primary scheme objectives to conserve wildlife, maintain and enhance landscape quality and character, protect the historic environment and natural resources (including water quality and soil) and promote public access to and understanding of the countryside (through educational visits to farms for school children up to age 16 and care farming activities for vulnerable groups). HLS will also continue to have secondary objectives for genetic conservation and flood management, which will support adaptation of the natural environment to climate change and help mitigate its effects.

Forests

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Forestry Commission has allocated for the acquisition of forestry land in each of the next four financial years. [58207]

Mr Paice: The independent panel on forestry will be advising my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, on the role of the public forest estate in England. The Government look forward to receiving the panel's advice, which will inform our future approach to the acquisition of forestry land. No specific resources have been allocated for the acquisition of forestry land in 2011-12, but should a suitable opportunity arise, the Forestry Commission could consider reallocation of any available funds.

Nature Conservation

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions she has had with representatives of Natural England on its role in promoting standards of professional conduct among ecological consultants and habitat surveyors; and whether she has assessed the merits of establishing a regulatory body to oversee the work of consultants providing biological information services; [58826]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to ensure *(a)* ecological consultants and *(b)* environmental managers adhere to a code of professional conduct. [58827]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has had no recent discussions with Natural England on this. Standards for this type of work are currently a matter for the professional bodies and associations. Both DEFRA and Natural England support their efforts to promote standards through codes of conduct and the use of independently produced standards such as the British Standards Institution's publicly available specification on planning and biodiversity. We have no plans to regulate.

We believe it is up to those who use ecological consultants and environmental managers to assess their competence. We would hope they would see experience, qualifications and, where appropriate, membership of a professional body promoting robust standards of professional conduct as being important indicators of competence.

Pesticides: Food

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 414W, on pesticides, when the staffing levels and funding for the monitoring of pesticides in the food chain in each of the next four years will be finalised. [58358]

Mr Paice: Spending plans for pesticides monitoring are confirmed at the start of each financial year. The budget for 2011-12 has been set at £1.9 million for the monitoring of pesticides, with staff resources of 3.5 full-time equivalent staff.

Pets: Cremation

Jessica Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on regulation of the pet cremation industry; and if she will consider the merits of reviewing the regulation of that industry with a view to improving its effectiveness. [58837]

Mr Paice: We have not received any representations on the regulation of pet crematoria under current arrangements, which have been recently revised. We would consider reviewing the regulation of that industry in light of experience of operation under the recent revisions to the EU waste framework directive (2008/98/EC) which excluded animal carcases from the controls of the revised Directive where they are disposed of in accordance with the EU Animal By-Products Regulation ((EC) No 1069/2009).

TRANSPORT

Cycling: Training

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding for Bikeability cycle training his Department *(a)* provided in 2010-11 and *(b)* has made budgetary provision for in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14 and (iv) 2014-15. [59703]

Norman Baker: In 2010-11 the Department for Transport made available £11 million in grant funding to local authorities and school sports partnerships to deliver level 2 Bikeability cycle training to children. For 2011-12 £11 million has been made available. The Government will continue to support Bikeability in 2012-13 to 2014-15. Total grant allocations for those years will be announced in due course.

Driving Tests: Workington

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons it is proposed to close the driving test centre in Workington. [59619]

Mike Penning: The driving theory test centre in Workington has the capacity to deliver over 15,000 tests a year. In 2010-11, just over 3,000 theory tests were conducted. As the theory test centres in Carlisle and Barrow in Furness have spare capacity, it is not cost effective to keep the Workington centre open. It is scheduled to close on 31 August 2011.

The delivery of practical driving tests remains unaffected.

East Coast Railway Line: Contracts

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings he has had with *(a)* trade union representatives and *(b)* hon. Members at which East Coast Main Line's decision to award the East Coast Main Line customer contact centre contract to Intelenet and Atos Origin was discussed. [58780]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 10 June 2011]:* DfT Ministers have not held any meetings with either trade union representatives or hon. Members to discuss this decision. However, the matter was discussed on the Floor of the House on 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 602-10, at the Adjournment debate secured by the hon. Gentleman.

Exhaust Emissions: Olympic Games 2012

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to respond to the findings of the Olympic Delivery Authority in respect of likely air quality in London during the London 2012 Olympics. [58268]

Mrs Villiers: The Government are committed to working towards EU air quality standards. While it is for the Mayor of London to decide what local transport policies are appropriate in London, the Department for Transport has recently made an extra £5 million available to help tackle some of London's worst pollution hotspots.

Our ambition is for a public transport Games with 100% of spectators travelling to London venues by public transport, cycling or on foot (with a very limited exception for disabled spectators). To help achieve this, ticketed spectators for London events will receive a Games Travelcard for London's public transport system on that day. There will be no private car parking for spectators at any venue, except for limited Blue Badge parking.

Transport for London is working with businesses to consider alternative ways of working and travelling, including home and flexible working, travelling into work at different times and encouraging their staff to walk or cycle into work. These and other measures should help reduce traffic levels and vehicle emissions, minimising the risk of exceeding air quality levels across London.

Great Western Railway Line: Electrification

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department undertook on the cost of *(a)* hybrid and *(b)* electric trains in determining the method of electrification of the Great Western mainline. [58766]

Mrs Villiers: The choice of the method of electrification was determined by Network Rail and was not dependent on an assessment of the relative costs of different passenger train types.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether HS2 Ltd will be required to mitigate any impact of railway building on sites of biological importance in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* England. [58326]

Mr Philip Hammond: The proposed route is subject to the outcome of the consultation exercise. Should the Government decide to proceed with high-speed rail, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) will be prepared to accompany a Hybrid Bill. The preparation of the EIA will be undertaken with input from Natural England, Environment Agency and others and would be subject to a formal consultation process. Results of that assessment would help inform any requirements for mitigation.

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has any plans to permit freight traffic on the High Speed 2 route. [58327]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Wimbledon (Stephen Hammond), on 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 189W.

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effect on wildlife populations of construction of High Speed 2. [58615]

Mr Philip Hammond: The appraisal of sustainability outlines how the preferred route has managed to avoid most potential impacts on designated habitats and sites. No sites of international significance would be adversely affected and impacts to nationally protected sites would be restricted to just a few locations. Should the Government decide to proceed with high-speed rail, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) will be prepared to accompany a Hybrid Bill. It is at this stage that detailed assessments would be made regarding wildlife populations. Results of the assessment and proposed mitigation would be consulted upon before the Hybrid Bill goes before Parliament.

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has estimated the proportion of the High Speed 2 route which will render agricultural land unusable. [58763]

Mr Philip Hammond: The HS2 London to the west midlands appraisal of sustainability, which was published on 28 February as part of the consultation on high-speed rail, estimates that no Grade 1 agricultural land would be affected in order to construct a new high-speed line between London and the west-midlands, and that the proposed route would pass across Grade 2 land for some 20 km. At this stage the Government have not appraised the impact on lower-grade agricultural land.

The impact on best and most versatile land (land at Grades 1, 2 and 3a) would be considered in more detail in the next stage of the project as part of an environmental impact assessment.

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to provide for compensation to sports facilities rendered unusable as a result of the construction of High Speed 2. [59250]

Mr Philip Hammond: Details of the statutory provisions on blight and compensation that would apply to residential and business properties for any new high-speed line, and a range of options for possible additional discretionary arrangements to help those whose properties would not be compulsorily purchased in order to build a new line, but who may still experience a significant loss in the value of their property as a result of it, are set out in Annex A of the Government's consultation document, "High Speed Rail: Investing in Britain's Future", which is available at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/consultation-document

Following the current consultation, decisions will be taken on the high-speed rail proposals, including any discretionary arrangements for compensation. This is expected to be before the end of 2011.

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what types of *(a)* agricultural land and *(b)* livestock currently using land that will be rendered unusable by the High Speed 2 route. [59251]

Mr Philip Hammond: The HS2 London to the west-midlands appraisal of sustainability, which was published on 28 February as part of the consultation on high-speed rail, estimates that no Grade 1 agricultural land would be affected in order to construct a new high-speed line between London and the west-midlands, and that the proposed route would pass across Grade 2 land for some 20 km. At this stage the Government have not appraised the impact on lower grade agricultural land.

The impact on best and most versatile land (land at Grades 1, 2 and 3a) would be considered in more detail in the next stage of the project as part of an environmental impact assessment.

We have not made an estimate of current usage of any of this land for livestock grazing.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many homeowners compensated by the HS2 exceptional hardship scheme are renting back their property. [59489]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Government have purchased one property under the Exceptional Hardship scheme which has subsequently been rented by the previous owner.

It should be made clear, however, that this is not a specific feature offered by the scheme. The operation of the scheme is designed in such a way that the Government take the place of the buyer as in a private sale. Applicants who accept an offer for their property from the Government are expected to vacate the property on or before the agreed purchase completion date, as with any normal house sale.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether communities where all property values are adversely affected by proximity to the proposed High Speed 2 line will be eligible to apply for all properties to be considered for potential compensation under the HS2 exceptional hardship scheme. [59490]

Mr Philip Hammond: The exceptional hardship scheme is available to anyone who fulfils the five scheme criteria, which are set out in the EHS guidance available at:

http://www.hs2.org.uk/exceptional-hardship-scheme?pageid=1

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what distance criteria from the proposed High Speed 2 route are used to evaluate properties for compensation under the HS2 exceptional hardship scheme. [59491]

Mr Philip Hammond: The exceptional hardship scheme guidance sets out the criteria for the scheme, including that of property location and is available at:

http://www.hs2.org.uk/exceptional-hardship-scheme?paqeid=1

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what method is used to ensure that those granted compensation under the HS2 exceptional hardship scheme are offered a pre-blight rather than a post-blight value for their home. [59493]

Mr Philip Hammond: The exceptional hardship scheme guidance sets out how property valuations are made under the scheme and is available at:

http://www.hs2.org.uk/exceptional-hardship-scheme?pageid=1

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether he expects to bring forward legislative proposals to establish a compensation scheme for HS2 as part of the Bill to make provision for the line. [59501]

Mr Philip Hammond: Existing legislation already includes statutory provision for blight and compensation. No decisions have yet been taken on additional discretionary blight arrangements, but details of a range of possible options to help those whose properties would not be compulsorily purchased in order to build a new line, but who may still experience a significant loss in the value of their property as a result of it, are set out in Annex A of the Government's consultation document, "High Speed Rail: Investing in Britain's Future", available at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/consultation-document

Until a decision is taken on the form of any such arrangements, it is not known whether additional legislation would be required.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what definition his Department has established for provision over and above statutory blight for homes affected by HS2; and if he will make a statement. [59502]

Mr Philip Hammond: No decisions have yet been, taken on additional discretionary blight arrangements, but details of a range of possible options to help those whose properties would not be compulsorily purchased in order to build a new line, but who may still experience a significant loss in the value of their property as a result of it, are set out in Annex A of the Government's consultation document, "High Speed Rail: Investing in Britain's Future", available at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/consultation-document

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the names are of the members of the HS2 exceptional hardship scheme panel; and what the professional *(a)* background and *(b)* qualifications are of each member. [59504]

Mr Philip Hammond: The details of all panel members can be found at:

http://www.hs2.org.uk/exceptional-hardship-scheme/EHS-Panel-Members-66193

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate has been made of the number of domestic properties located within *(a)* 50, *(b)* 100, *(c)* 200, *(d)* 300 and *(e)* 500 metres of an entrance to or an exit from a proposed HS2 line tunnel. [59505]

Mr Philip Hammond: The appraisal of sustainability, available at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/appraisal-sustainability

contains information about the number of domestic properties that would potentially be affected by the proposed route. However, such estimates have not been made with specific reference to the distance from tunnel portals on the proposed route.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future use of homes purchased under the HS2 exceptional hardship Scheme. [59507]

Mr Philip Hammond: In the short term, properties purchased by the Government under the exceptional hardship scheme are rented out as soon as possible.

Decisions on the longer-term use of these properties will be taken once a decision on whether or not to go ahead with the proposed HS2 route has been taken, and once it becomes clear precisely what land would be required to construct any new line.

Motorways: Accidents

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason over 14 miles of the northbound carriageway of the M1 motorway was closed on 26 May 2011; what his policy is on the closure of motorways as a last resort after accidents; and if he will consider issuing guidance to highway authorities in this respect. [59461]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency is the highway authority for motorways in England, including the M1. It was closed by the police between junction 16 and junction 17 at 14:10 hours on 26 May due to a multiple vehicle collision which involved a fatality.

The Traffic Management Act 2004 and national and incident management guidance frameworks set out the policy framework and principles under which the Highways Agency, in partnership with the police, manage incidents on motorways. These frameworks direct those responsible to conduct their incident management activities in ways that prevent the unnecessary closure of roads following an incident. Roads are only closed when critical infrastructure repairs cannot be performed while part of the carriageway remains open and/or when an incident has resulted in serious injury or a fatality where the police have a duty to conduct a thorough investigation in accordance with their road death investigation manual.

On 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 39-40WS, I announced that the Department for Transport has completed a review into what improvements could be made to achieve the shortest timeline possible for managing incidents where a motorway closure is required. The review makes 10 recommendations, the delivery of which will ensure that there is overall improvement in the time taken to reopen motorways following an incident, reducing the economic impact of closures and minimising the delay experienced by road users. Local highway authorities will also be able to adopt the good practice identified in the review.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the northbound carriageway of the M1 motorway was closed near Watford Gap on 26 May 2011; on whose authority the road was closed; and what steps were taken to reduce inconvenience to motorists as a result of the closure. [59462]

Mike Penning: The M1 motorway was closed between junction 16 and Junction 17 at 2.10 pm hours on 26 May due to a multiple vehicle collision. The incident resulted in a fatality which meant it was led by Northamptonshire police, who had to perform an investigation in accordance with their road death investigation manual. This required the northbound carriageway to be sterile of traffic so the police closed the motorway.

Steps taken to reduce the inconvenience to motorists were to use agreed emergency diversion routes and to turn around traffic that had been caught between Watford Gap and the incident. Variable message signs were set to warn of the closure and local media were informed of the closure and diversion routes.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the A1(M) was closed north of its junction with the A1000 on 26 May 2011; on whose authority the road was closed; and what guidance he has issued to highway authorities on *(a)* steps to minimise delays from such incidents to road users and *(b)* closure of a road only as a last resort. [59463]

Mike Penning: The A1(M) north of its junction with the A1000 was not fully closed on 26 May. Lanes 2 and 3 were blocked due to an incident where a car collided with the central reservation. The police were the first in attendance and set out the lane closures which were then backed up by the Highways Agency traffic officers when they arrived on scene.

(a) On 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 39-40WS, I announced that the Department for Transport has completed a review into what improvements could be made to achieve the shortest timeline possible or managing incidents where a motorway closure is required. The review makes 10 recommendations, the delivery of which will ensure that there is overall improvement in the time taken to re-open motorways following an incident, reducing the economic impact of closures and minimising the delay experienced by road users. Local highway authorities will also be able to adopt the good practice identified in the review.

(b) The Traffic Management Act 2004 and national and incident management guidance frameworks set out the policy framework and principles under which the Highways Agency, in partnership with the police, manages incidents on motorways. These frameworks direct those responsible to conduct their incident management activities in ways that prevent the unnecessary closure of roads following an incident. Roads are only closed when critical infrastructure repairs cannot be performed while part of the carriageway remains open and/or when an incident has resulted in serious injury or a fatality where the police have a duty to conduct a thorough investigation in accordance with their road death investigation manual.

Public Transport: Fares

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* train and *(b)* bus operating companies have reached an agreement with his Department to offer fares that are staggered incrementally in price according to times of travel. [56046]

Norman Baker: In addition to meeting the requirements relating to regulated fares set out in their franchise agreements, train operators may choose to offer fares at a lower price for travel in off-peak times.

The Department does not collate information on off-peak fares. This is a matter for individual train operators.

Bus operators do not agree fares with central Government. In the deregulated market in England outside London these are either set commercially by private operators or agreed by operators with the local transport authority under a contract for services.

Bus fares in London are a matter for the Mayor.

Rail Delivery Group

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the name is of each *(a)* member of and *(b)* organisations represented on the Rail Delivery Group. [58588]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 13 June 2011]:* The Rail Delivery Group is an independent industry body made up of the most senior figures in the rail industry—including the chief executives of the passenger and freight train operating owning groups and Network Rail. It will be chaired by Tim O'Toole, the chief executive of FirstGroup. A press release announcing the formation of the group can be found on the Network Rail website.

Decisions on the remit and composition of the group are for industry determination, but we support all efforts by the industry to deliver improved efficiency and value for money, responding to Sir Roy McNulty's report on value for money in the rail industry.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2010, *Official Report,* column 517W, on railways, when he plans to announce the members of the high level working group to examine options for structural reform in the rail industry; and what representations he has received on membership of that group. [58589]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 13 June 2011]:* An announcement concerning the membership of the group will be made in due course. The Department for Transport has received representations from a number of groups and individuals regarding the group's composition. The Department's business plan commits it to making a statement on the future of the railway in November.

Railways: Construction

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has any plans for *(a)* public consultation on and *(b)* primary legislation to authorise the construction of high-speed rail projects other than HS2. [58325]

Mr Philip Hammond: Our current plans are limited to the HS2 project for a high-speed line from London to Birmingham and onward to Leeds and Manchester, with a spur to Heathrow airport.

Railways: Fares

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the timetable is for the fares policy review; and whether the review will include a public consultation. [R] [59101]

Mrs Villiers: The Government want the fares policy review to address the right issues and be carried out effectively. We are therefore still giving consideration to the scope of the review, including the timetable and process for engagement.

Railways: Passengers

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rail passengers used *(a)* category D and *(b)* category E train stations in each of the last five years. [R] [59099]

Mrs Villiers: Station usage data for the five years between 2005/06 and 2009/10 is published on the Office of Rail Regulation's website at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1529

Information about station categories is available as an appendix in the Network Rail annual return 2010, which is available on Network Rail's website at:

www.networkrail.co.uk/epdf/default.aspx/annual-return-2010/

Railways: Recycling

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of waste from passenger trains was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [58900]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has encouraged train operators to recycle a higher proportion of waste in recently let franchises. However, the Department does not routinely monitor such data except where it constitutes a contractual obligation. Further information on waste recycling rates may be available from individual train operators or from the Association of Train Operating Companies at the following address:

ATOC Ltd
3rd Floor
40 Bernard Street
London
WC1N 1BY

Railways: Tickets

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many tickets were issued at ticket offices at *(a)* category D and *(b)* category E stations in each of the last five years. [R] [59100]

Mrs Villiers: The Government do not hold the information as requested.

Road Traffic Act 1988

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings his Department's working party on potential changes to section 172 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 has held in each year since 2006. [59374]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport did not convene a working party about potential changes to section 172 of the Road Safety Act 2006, although it is in the process of assembling a group.

Previously an internal police group looked at the prosecution issues associated with the use of section 172. It was necessary for the police to review how they operated and to consider any issues they wished to communicate to the Government.

Road Works

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of legislation governing the management of street works. [58369]

Norman Baker: In February 2011 the Department for Transport published the findings of an independent study to evaluate the effectiveness of street works legislation introduced under the Traffic Management Act 2004. The report broadly considered that the legislation was fit for purpose, and provided advice to further improve local authority practice.

The report can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/network/local/streetworks/tmaevaluation/

Roads: Police

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department has issued on the role of the police in traffic management in urban areas. [59258]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has issued DfT Circular 1/07 "Use of Speed and Red-Light Cameras for Traffic Enforcement: Guidance on Deployment, Visibility and Signing". This guidance is relevant to the police, among others.

However, in general the Department does not influence policing through guidance or otherwise. The role of the police in the management of urban areas is a local matter for the relevant police force and local authorities. Information on how to interpret the law is provided by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

Rolling Stock

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on the environment of *(a)* hybrid and *(b)* electric trains. [58264]

Mrs Villiers: In the recent appraisal of the Intercity Express Programme, when under electric power the effect on the environmental air quality of a bi-mode and electric set was assumed to be proportional to the fuel consumption rates that I have set out in my answer given today (UIN 58266).

The environmental effects will also be dependent on the electrical generation mix as it changes over time.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the fuel efficiency of *(a)* hybrid and *(b)* electric trains. [58266]

Mrs Villiers: Based on the recent appraisal work done for the Intercity Express Programme, when operating under electric power, bi-mode trains will generally consume around 2% more energy than electric trains because of the additional weight of the diesel engines.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the average costs of procurement of *(a)* hybrid and *(b)* electric trains. [58267]

Mrs Villiers: In the recent appraisal of the Intercity Express Programme, the average capital rental costs of a bi-mode set were assumed to be around £180,000 per month and the average capital rental costs of an electric set were assumed to be around £170,000 per month. The above costs are based on five-car short sets, and are given at 2009-10 prices.

Shipping: Armed Forces

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has assessed the merits of bringing forward legislative proposals to enable UK-based companies to employ armed personnel on commercial ships. [59532]

Mike Penning: Recognising the specific issue of increasing piracy attacks off the coast of Somalia, the Department for Transport, in line with recent work by the International Maritime Organisation, is considering amending the current policy to recognise that engaging armed personnel is an option for UK flagged ship owners to combat piracy. Cross-departmental consideration is covering a number of complex legal and operational issues which may or may not require legislative proposals.

Transport: Exhaust Emissions

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to set targets for local transport authorities in respect of their contribution to carbon dioxide reduction. [59016]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 13 June 2011]:* Local authorities can contribute to carbon reduction in a variety of ways, and the Government are supporting schemes which promote growth and cut carbon, including through our £560 million local sustainable transport fund. The recently published White Paper, 'Cutting Carbon, Creating Growth', sets out our strategy for local transport. It is available here:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/sustainabletransport/

We have no plans however, to set carbon reduction targets for local transport authorities. It is for local authorities to set their own objectives in line with the needs of the local community.

Transport: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department plans to implement its proposal to rationalise the number of its local authority funding streams. [56115]

Norman Baker: Following announcements made in the comprehensive spending review 2010, the Department rationalised the number of its local authority funding streams, from 26 to four, at the start of the 2011-12 financial year.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to devolve capital funding for local transport schemes to sub-national bodies. [58867]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 13 June 2011]:* We are currently considering the best way of devolving capital funding for local authority major schemes beyond 2014-15 and we plan to consult with relevant bodies this summer with a view to making a further statement before the end of the year.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

EU Expenditure: External Affairs

2. **John Cryer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the allocation of EU expenditure on external affairs; and if he will make a statement. [59272]

Mr Lidington: We are clear that annual growth in the EU budget must be curbed. EU external spending, about 6% of the total EU budget, can complement the UK's own efforts in promoting growth and stability, tackling poverty and preventing conflict. However, there remains scope for rationalisation in this area of the budget, including administration costs. In addition, the European External Action Service must fulfil its commitment to budget neutrality over time, and as such the Council and Commission budgets for external spending also need to contribute to efficiency savings.

Sri Lanka

18. **Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Sri Lankan Government on alleged violations of human rights during the recent conflict in that country; and if he will make a statement. [59288]

Alistair Burt: I spoke with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister yesterday and reiterated the need for an independent and credible investigation to address alleged human rights violations during the military conflict. We want the Sri Lankan Government to work with the UN and the international community. The primary responsibility for addressing accountability and achieving reconciliation lies with the Government of Sri Lanka.

Nigeria

19. **Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Nigerian Government since the recent elections in that country. [59289]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, wrote a joint letter with the Secretary of State for International Development to President Goodluck Jonathan on 9 June on a range of bilateral, international and development issues. The Prime Minister and I spoke to President Jonathan on 19 April and 29 May respectively.

Syria

20. **Sheila Gilmore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Arab League on the political situation in Libya. [59292]

Mr Hague: The Minister for North Africa and the Middle East, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), had detailed discussions in Abu Dhabi on 9 June with the Libya Contact Group, including the Arab League. These discussions began to plan for a post-Gaddafi future and fully established the Temporary Financial Mechanism, a critical vehicle to deliver much-needed support to the Libyan people. Regional countries and organisations such as the Arab League have an important role to play in building a positive future for Libya.

22. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Syria; and if he will make a statement. [59294]

Mr Hague: I remain extremely concerned by ongoing violence and repression and utterly condemn the indiscriminate violence perpetrated by the Syrian security forces against peaceful demonstrators. President Assad should order his authorities to stop this brutality now. He is in danger of losing his legitimacy and should decide whether to reform or step aside.

China: Human Rights

21. **Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Chinese Government on human rights. [59293]

Mr Jeremy Browne: During my recent visit to China (31 May to 3 June) I raised human rights concerns with Vice-Minister Fu Ying. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and I raised the case of detained artist, Ai Weiwei, with Chinese Vice-Minister Fu Ying when she visited London on 12 May 2011.I wrote to the Chinese ambassador on 3 May raising my concerns about recent human rights developments in China, including the case of Ai Weiwei, the recent crackdown at the Tibetan Buddhist Kirti monastery and arrests at the Shouwang Protestant church in Beijing.

Egypt

23. **Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Egypt. [59295]

Alistair Burt: We welcome the progress made so far by the Egyptian authorities on the transition to a democratic, civilian-led Government.

There have been further demonstrations calling for faster reforms and a revised electoral timetable. We are concerned that planned parliamentary elections in September will be too early to allow political parties to organise their activity and to contest the elections.

We have pressed the Egyptian authorities to ensure an open and plural election process. We urge the authorities to make good on their commitments to oversee the transition, and safeguard the legitimate demands of the Egyptian people.

BBC World Service

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the timetable and scope are of his Department's review of the BBC World Service. [59291]

Mr Lidington: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, has asked Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials to work intensively to review the decision to reduce the budget of the BBC World Service, paying particular attention to the issues raised by the Foreign Affairs Committee. We expect the work to be completed by early July.

British Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to visit British overseas territories in the next year. [59023]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, has no immediate plans to visit British overseas territories.

Further to my answer of 17 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 649W, I remain keen to continue to visit overseas territories and plan to make further visits later this year, but it is not practice to announce these visits until they are confirmed.

British Overseas Territories: Environment Protection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on the promotion of environmental awareness in British overseas territories in each of the last five years. [59018]

Mr Bellingham: Responsibility for environmental issues is devolved to the Governments of the overseas territories. However the British Government are aware of the challenges the overseas territories face in their responsibility to preserve their environmental assets, and we work alongside overseas territories Governments to provide support and assistance in areas where they need help.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has, for the past five years, contributed half of the annual £1 million funding to the joint FCO-Department For International Development overseas territories environment programme, which delivers projects covering a range of environmental issues across the overseas territories. Raising awareness of environmental issues is often an inevitable outcome of these projects but is not a separately funded budget line within them: therefore, exact sums cannot be enumerated.

FCO officials additionally work closely with a wide range of non-governmental organisations and other interested parties, as well as across Whitehall, to further environmental protection and sustainable development in the overseas territories.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to promote environmental awareness in British overseas territories. [59020]

Mr Bellingham: Responsibility for environmental issues is devolved to the Governments of the overseas territories. However, the British Government are aware of the challenges the overseas territories face in their responsibility to preserve their environmental assets, and we work alongside overseas territories Governments to provide support and assistance in areas where they need help.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) works very closely with other Government Departments, in particular the Department for International Development and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), to support environmental issues, including biodiversity protection, nature conservation, recycling, sustainable energy and climate change adaptation, across the overseas territories. This includes considerable input from the staff of the Governors' Offices in the territories, the provision of dedicated funding, and involvement in the overseas territories biodiversity group, led by DEFRA and implementing the overseas territories biodiversity strategy.

In addition, the FCO liaises closely with non-governmental organisations and other interested parties, encouraging and supporting their involvement in environmental issues in the overseas territories.

British Overseas Territories: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to promote good governance in British overseas territories. [59021]

Mr Bellingham: We work closely with the Governments of the British overseas territories to ensure the right controls are in place to support good governance and sound management of public finances. I have reinforced these messages during visits to Anguilla and the Turks and Caicos Islands, at the Overseas Territories Consultative Council in November and during bilateral meetings with overseas territories' leaders. We are determined that the situation we have found in the Turks and Caicos Islands is not repeated, there or elsewhere.

The key aim of the constitutional and electoral reform process in the Turks and Caicos Islands is to prepare a new constitution to support good governance in the territory. We have agreed a new constitution with Montserrat, which the Governor hopes to bring into force in September 2011, which includes an updated catalogue of fundamental human rights and freedoms and provisions to: regulate and raise public finance; establish a complaints commission; and ensure high standards in public life. Constitutions agreed with other territories over that past few years have also been intended to support good governance in these territories.

We are discussing frameworks for fiscal responsibility with the Cayman Islands, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands in order to help these territories manage their finances better.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has also funded a number of good governance projects in the territories.

British Overseas Territories: Sustainable Development

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with officials from British overseas territories on environmental sustainability. [59022]

Mr Bellingham: Responsibility for environmental issues is devolved to the Governments of the overseas territories. However, the British Government are aware of the challenges the overseas territories face in their responsibility to preserve their environmental assets, and we work alongside overseas territories' Governments to provide support and assistance in areas where they need help.

I led a discussion on environmental issues at the annual Overseas Territories Consultative Council, to which the leaders and premiers of all the overseas territories were invited, in November last year. In addition, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have frequent discussions with their counterparts in the overseas territories on this issue.

Central America

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to visit central America in the next year. [59129]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has not finalised his travel plans for the next year.

I visited Guatemala and Panama in November and will return to the region this year as part of the Government's re-engagement with Latin America. The re-opening of our embassy in El Salvador is another important part of this process.

Clara Gutteridge

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information the high commission in Kenya holds on the deportation from Kenya of Clara Gutteridge; what representations his Department has made to the Government of Kenya on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [59413]

Mr Bellingham: Our high commission is aware of the deportation of Clara Gutteridge. At the request of her employer, and in advance of her visit, the British high commission in Nairobi wrote to the Kenyan Ministry of Immigration requesting advice on her immigration status. The information we hold consists of this letter, a reply and the records of the consular assistance we subsequently provided to Ms Gutteridge.

Our high commission has raised the deportation with the Government of Kenya but acknowledges that it is their right to deport Ms Gutteridge.

Departmental Pensions

Dr Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many employees of his Department at each grade have pension pots *(a)* currently valued and *(b)* projected to be valued on retirement at more than (i) £1 million and (ii) £1.5 million. [59357]

Mr Bellingham: Staff in the principal civil service pension scheme who are in the classic, classic plus and premium schemes do not have pension pots as such, as the schemes are not defined benefit schemes. Staff in the Nuvos scheme which started in July 2007 do, but the costs of providing this information would be disproportionate.

Government Procurement Card

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many disciplinary offences have been recorded in his Department for the improper use of a Government procurement card in each of the last five years. [59029]

Mr Bellingham: There have been no disciplinary offences for the improper use of Government procurement cards in any of the last five years. No improper use has been found and we have strict controls in place to stop misuse from happening.

Henderson Island: Rodents

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to combat the rat infestation on Henderson Island. [59118]

Mr Bellingham: Responsibility for environmental issues is devolved to the Governments of the overseas territories. However, the UK Government are aware of the challenges the overseas territories face in their responsibility to preserve their biodiversity, and we work alongside their Governments to provide support and assistance in areas where they need help.

On Henderson Island, the UK Government are working closely with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the Pitcairn Government and others to eradicate rats and the RSPB has announced that it will be proceeding with a rat eradication programme this August. The UK Government have so far contributed over £400,000 towards this project. In addition to this, I co-hosted with the RSPB a reception last year in support of Henderson Island World Heritage Site.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterpart in *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* the Russian Federation, *(c)* India and *(d)* China on the situation in Libya. [56312]

Mr Hague: The UK has ongoing dialogue with these countries on a wide range of bilateral co-operation issues, including Libya.

Mauritania: Embassies

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will consider the merits of opening an embassy in Mauritania. [58887]

Alistair Burt: We have a strong network of embassies in north Africa which have been under considerable pressure in recent months. While we do not consider there is a need to establish new posts in the region, we have frequently and substantially reinforced our staffing in recent months. We have an honorary consul in Nouakchott and expect to re-open our political office in August to bolster existing work from Rabat. We will keep the need for additional deployments under review

North Africa: EU External Relations

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of the European Commission's european neighbourhood policy to the transition process in *(a)* Egypt and *(b)* Tunisia. [59322]

Alistair Burt: The european neighbourhood policy was launched in 2004 with the objective of promoting stability, security and well-being in the countries in the EU's neighbourhood, including Egypt and Tunisia. European neighbourhood and partnership instrument assistance for 2011-13 stood at €240 million for Tunisia and €449 million for Egypt before the revolutions. In recent months the EU has committed additional financial resources to support the transition process in Egypt and Tunisia.

Discussions are continuing between the EU and the interim authorities in Egypt and Tunisia as to how these additional resources can be best used. In Tunisia, initial funding has been allocated for supporting elections; the work of the three commissions on political reform, human rights and corruption; and funding for civil society and judicial reform. For Egypt, the proposed package covers assistance to review laws relating to non-governmental organisations, media, association, political parties and the penal and criminal code; support for justice reform and review of the security system; support for elections and civil society; political capacity building; support for health and education reform; and vocational training.

As the Prime Minister made clear in March, we believe the EU needs to make a real and credible offer to its neighbours. We believe the joint European Commission and External Action Service communication of 25 May, reviewing the European neighbourhood policy, delivers that ambitious and far-reaching offer to the neighbourhood, including through further opening of EU markets.

Omar al-Bashir

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to support the execution of the arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court against Omar al-Bashir. [59410]

Mr Bellingham: The United Kingdom is a strong supporter of the work that the International Criminal Court (ICC) has undertaken to investigate the most serious crimes of international concern that are alleged to have been committed in Darfur. Together with European Union partners, we regularly make clear that we expect all countries to fulfil their obligations, either as ICC states parties or as United Nations members, to co-operate with this investigation, including the enforcement of arrest warrants issued by the court. I most recently made this clear in a statement on 11 May, where I expressed my disappointment that President Bashir had been able to visit Djibouti in defiance of his ICC arrest warrants.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to support the All Darfur Stakeholders conference. [59415]

Mr Bellingham: I have regularly raised the UK's concerns about Darfur and the need for an early resolution to the conflict with Sudanese interlocutors, most recently with the Sudanese Foreign Minister on 6 June. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development, has made similar representations, including during his most recent visit to Sudan on 7-8 May. The UK has been in regular contact with the Darfur joint chief mediator, Djibril Bassole, the Government of Sudan and the armed movements throughout the Doha talks. In the final stages of the Doha process UK officials have been continuously engaged in Doha and with our international partners to help shape a constructive outcome. At the All Darfur Stakeholders conference the UK was represented by the UK's special representative for Sudan. We will work closely with our partners, including the United Nations and African Union, on the follow up to the conference, including the next phase of the Darfur peace process.

Syria: Politics and Government

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of *(a)* males and *(b)* females (i) slightly injured, (ii) seriously injured and (iii) killed in Syria since the start of the protests in that country; and if he will make a statement. [59037]

Alistair Burt: Obtaining independently verifiable information out of Syria is difficult given the Syrian Government's stance restricting the access of international humanitarian organisations to towns and cities affected by the current violence and by their barring entry to Syria of the international media. I am therefore unable to give any definitive answer to my hon. Friend other than that we have credible reports of 1,000 dead and as many as 10,000 detained.

As the Prime Minister said to the House of Commons on 8 June, *Official Report*, column 151, the violence being meted out to peaceful protestors and demonstrators is completely unacceptable. We must not stand silent in the face of those outrages, and we will not.

The EU has already frozen the assets of, and banned travel by, members of the regime, and President Assad is included on that list. We are exploring with our European partners the potential for further sanctions if the violence continues.

In New York, Britain has circulated a draft UN Security Council resolution condemning the repression in Syria and calling for the Syrian Government to meet their people's legitimate demands, release all prisoners of conscience, lift restrictions on the media and internet and co-operate with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. A resolution is not in our gift, and needs the support of nine UN Security Council members and no vetoes. We are working to persuade other countries that the Security Council has a responsibility to speak out. President Assad is losing legitimacy and should reform or step aside.

Tunisia: Egypt

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what programmes of assistance the UK is offering to *(a)* Tunisia and *(b)* Egypt. [59199]

Alistair Burt: Following the announcement by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, of the Arab Partnership in February of this year, £1.15 million of the initial fund of £5 million has been allocated for projects in Tunisia and £1.2 million for Egypt. Additional funding will become available, following the expansion of the Arab Partnership funding to £110 million over four years.

In Tunisia our programme focuses on three main themes:

political participation;

strengthening the rule of law, with a particular focus on tackling corruption; and

employment opportunities, especially for young people.

The embassy plans to work with a range of partners, including the British Council, the BBC World Service Trust, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Thompson Foundation, and local civil society organisations.

In Egypt, our embassy in Cairo is in close contact with Government officials, the opposition and activists to identify the most useful interventions. They are making progress in developing programmes that address Egypt's political, economic and structural needs. These include:

political participation;

employment and education;

investment and trade;

civil society development;

security sector reform; and

tackling corruption and conflict of interest and constitutional reform.

CABINET OFFICE

Big Society Bank

Dr Huppert: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the effects of funding from the big society bank on the operational viability of charities. [59392]

Mr Hurd *[holding answer 13 June 2011]:* The big society bank aims to boost the ability of civil society organisations, including charities, to deal with social issues. It will do this by supporting organisations that invest in civil society; helping them provide a greater range of financial services to charities; and helping them raise more money for onward investment into the sector.

The financial intermediaries supported by the big society bank are expected primarily to support charities that generate enough revenue through their activities to repay the investment they receive. The additional financial provision facilitated by the big society bank is likely to include increased access to working capital for charities, which is an important contributor to operational viability.

Increasing the financial options available to charities as well as the overall level of capital coming into the sector should also mean that grant finance can go where it is most needed.

The big society bank has not yet started operating, so no assessment has yet been made of its actual impact on charities.

Charities Act 2006

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the *(a)* timetable and *(b)* process is for his Department's review of the Charities Act 2006; [58901]

(2) how charitable organisations can contribute to the review of the Charities Act 2006. [58902]

Mr Hurd: Section 73 of the Charities Act 2006 requires the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), to appoint a person before 8 November 2011 to undertake an independent review of the Charities Act 2006. The Act specifies some of the matters that must be considered in the review. The timetable for the review itself has not been finalised but the review is likely to take between six and nine months, concluding in 2012. Once completed, the report of the review must be laid before Parliament.

It will be for the person appointed to undertake the review to determine how charities can best contribute to it, but the terms of reference will ensure that there is a mechanism for charities to contribute.

Civil Service: Vacancies

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil service posts were *(a)* created and *(b)* lost (i) on Merseyside (ii) in each Government Department and (iii) in each constituency in each of the last six years. [59239]

Mr Maude: Information on the number of civil service posts *(a)* created and *(b)* lost (i) on Merseyside (ii) in each Government Department and (iii) in each constituency in each of the last six years is not centrally available.

However, Information on the number of leavers and new entrants at Government Departments are published annually by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as part of the annual civil service employment survey (ACSES). Information on the number of employees by Government office region is also published. The ACSES report is available at the ONS website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=2899

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of civil service posts which will be *(a)* created and *(b)* lost (i) on Merseyside (ii) in each Government Department and (iii) in each constituency in (A) 2011, (B) 2012 and (C) 2013. [59240]

Mr Maude: Information on the number of civil service posts *(a)* created and *(b)* lost (i) on Merseyside (ii) in each Government Department and (iii) in each constituency in each constituency in (A) 2011, (B) 2012 and (C) 2013 is not centrally available.

Departmental Equality

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what account he has taken of the effects of income inequality in the *(a)* formulation and *(b)* implementation of policy. [57152]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office is committed to taking full account of equality issues in formulating and implementing policy. The Cabinet Office has a number of programmes which specifically focus on supporting citizens and communities from a range of socio-economic backgrounds, ensuring that the range of opportunities presented by the big society are open to all.

Government Departments: Internet

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether his Department plans to make available on the alpha.gov.uk website any information or services which are not available on the direct.gov.uk website; [58882]

(2) how much has been *(a)* spent on the alpha.gov.uk website to date and *(b)* allocated for its future development; [58880]

(3) what plans he has for future support of the direct.gov.uk website. [58881]

Mr Maude: The alpha.gov.uk website is an early prototype of a possible single Government domain. It is yet to be decided what content and services will be included on the final release of this single Government domain.

To date £261,000 has been spent on the alpha.gov.uk website. As yet, no funding has been allocated for any future development. This will be subject to the Cabinet Office approval process.

The Cabinet Office will continue to support the Directgov website providing citizens with Government information and services.

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the purpose is of the alpha.gov.uk website. [58884]

Mr Maude: The alpha.gov.uk website is an early prototype of a possible single Government domain. It has been developed as a step to help put Government services online and is aimed at making public services easier to use, as recommend by Martha Lane Fox in her review of Government digital services.

Older Workers

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of the work force that is aged over 60 years. [59229]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what recent estimate has been made of the proportion of workforce that is aged over 60 years. (59229)

The proportion of economically active people aged 60 and over was 8%, based on the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for the period January to March 2011, which is the latest period for which estimates are available.

Estimates of economic activity are available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). In accordance with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition, people are classed as economically active if they are in employment or unemployed.

Public Expenditure

Mr Meacher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much was spent *(a)* at current prices and *(b)* in constant prices on (i) general Government purchase of external goods and services and (ii) annually managed current expenditure, excluding welfare payments and debt servicing, in each year between 1987 and 2011. [58586]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General of the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how much was spent (a) at current prices and (b) in constant prices on (i) general government purchase of external goods and services and (ii) annually managed current expenditure, excluding welfare payments and debt servicing, in each year between 1987 and 2011. (58586).

In respect of (i), according to National Accounting conventions, ONS produces estimates of general government intermediate consumption expenditure in current prices. Intermediate consumption is a measure of all goods and services used as inputs in the process of further production. As such, for government, the measure covers not only goods and services procured from outside the government sector but also goods and services procured between departments within the government sector. The latest ONS figures for general government intermediate consumption expenditure in current prices are provided in the table overleaf from 1987 to 2010, the most recent year for which annual data are available. Figures are not available in constant prices in the absence of a suitable deflator to apply to the current price figures.

With regards to (ii), ONS does not produce figures on annually managed current expenditure as these are published by HM Treasury.

General Government intermediate consumption expenditure, 1987 to 2010, United Kingdom

Calendar year	*Expenditure (£ million current prices)*
1987	34,562
1988	37,008
1989	41,621
1990	46,815
1991	51,614
1992	56,355
1993	57,402
1994	62,701
1995	65,710
1996	68,740
1997	69,413

General Government intermediate consumption expenditure, 1987 to 2010, United Kingdom

Calendar year	*Expenditure (£ million current prices)*
1998	74,732
1999	84,687
2000	92,254
2001	99,232
2002	110,828
2003	121,618
2004	134,757
2005	145,561
2006	156,390
2007	165,233
2008	177,560
2009	184,942
2010	189,668

Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what statistical data his Department ceased to collect in the past year; and what the *(a)* reasons for and *(b)* savings arising from each such cessation were. [59561]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office does not currently produce any official statistics.

Unemployment: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of people resident in Coventry who are economically inactive; and if he will make a statement. [59228]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of people who are economically inactive in Coventry. (59228)

The Office for National Statistics compiles estimates of inactivity for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The number of people aged 16-64 who were economically inactive and resident in Coventry was 55,500, based on the APS for the 12 months ending in September 2010, which is the latest period for which estimates are available.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Well-being

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, (1) pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 304W, on well-being, when the Office for National Statistics will publish the first results on regional and national variations in well-being; [59622]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 305-6W, on well-being: children, on what date the papers from the MNW technical advisory group meeting on the measurement of children's well-being are to be published on the Office for National Statistics website; [59624]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 304W, on well-being, whether the Prime Minister's invitation to the Office for National Statistics to provide subjective measures of well-being included subjective measures of well-being for children. [59625]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking, when the first results on regional and national variations in well-being of the ONS (59622), on what date the papers from the MNW Technical Advisory Group meeting on the measurement of children's well-being are to be published on the ONS website (59624) and whether the Prime Minister's invitation to the ONS to provide subjective measures of well-being included subjective measures of well-being for children (59625).

The first annual experimental results of subjective well-being from the Integrated Household Survey (IHS) are planned for publication in July 2012 and these will provide estimates by region and country within the UK. The IHS is a survey of people aged 16 and over.

In accepting the Prime Minister's invitation to produce wider measures of national well-being, and in launching the national debate on measuring national well-being, the National Statistician and the ONS recognise the importance of including children and young people. ONS held a number of events about children and young people's well-being during the national debate, including events in schools and with young people in other settings.

We will aim to publish papers from the Measuring National Well-being Technical Advisory Group meeting on children and young people by 19 July 2011. We publish papers on our website at

http://www.ons.gov.uk/well-being

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Argentina: Overseas Aid

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect aid the Government have given to Argentina in each year since 1982; and if he will make a statement. [59060]

Mr Duncan: Details of the Department of International Development (DFID) aid expenditure is published in Statistics on International Development (SID) which is available in the House Library or online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

No aid to Argentina was recorded for the financial years 1982-83 to 1989-90 inclusive, or for the years 2002-03 to 2009-10 inclusive. Figures for the remaining years are reproduced in the table. No aid was provided directly to the Argentinean Government in any of the given years.

DFID bilateral expenditure in Argentina

	£000
1990-91	20
1991-92	26
1992-93	90

DFID bilateral expenditure in Argentina

	£000
1993-94	149
1994-95	98
1995-96	139
1996-97	136
1997-98	135
1998-99	160
1999-2000	134
2000-01	8
2001-02	<1

Bribery Act 2010

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent progress has been made on implementation of the Bribery Act 2010; what further steps are planned during the *(a)* remainder of 2011 and *(b)* 2012; what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on implementation of the Act; and if he will make a statement. [59043]

Mr Duncan: Responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the Bribery Act lies with the Ministry of Justice. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 30 March, *Official Report*, column 21WS.

The Department is preparing advice for staff on the implications of the Act for the Department's business. The Secretary of State discusses regularly with a range of colleagues matters relevant to the Department regarding the enforcement of the Act.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has received representations from the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development on the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010; and if he will make a statement. [59044]

Mr Duncan: The Secretary of State for International Development has not received any representations from the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD) on the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010.

The Bribery Act 2010 will come into force on 1 July.

British Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to visit British overseas territories in the next year. [59024]

Mr Duncan: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development, visited Montserrat in January this year. That visit was a chance to see at first hand the challenges and opportunities Montserrat faces. Many of these challenges—better access, ensuring sustainable growth, reducing aid dependency on the UK—are shared by other overseas territories.

The Secretary of State plans to visit St Helena once all the contracts related to the new airport have been signed and agreed, and the terms of the memorandum of understanding he signed with the Government of St Helena have been honoured.

British Overseas Territories: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department has given to British overseas territories in each of the last 10 years. [59036]

Mr Duncan: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) aid expenditure, including in the British overseas territories, are published in Statistics on International Development, which is available in the Library of the House and on DFID's website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Bilateral programme expenditure in the British overseas territories for the last 10 years (since 2001-02) is reproduced in the following table. Figures for 2010-11 will be published in the next addition of Statistics on International Development.

Total DFID Bilateral

£000

	Montserrat	*St Helena and Dependencies*	*Pitcairn*	*Anguiila*	*Turks and Caicos Islands*	*British Virgin Islands*
2001-02	22,481	10,106	—	1,847	2,719	83
2002-03	23,350	9,555	53	1,044	1,532	90
2003-04	24,757	10,525	66	854	741	11
2004-05	14,151	14,481	1,314	1,216	1,187	—
2005-06	12,617	13,563	2,582	895	357	—
2006-07	15,556	15,692	1,837	—	149	—
2007-08	17,164	17,550	1,460	—	178	—
2008-09	16,276	35,738	2,115	—	1,000	—
2009-10	20,766	22,701	1,790	—	4,690	—

Central America

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to visit central America in the next year. [59130]

Mr Duncan: Ministers have no current plans to visit central America.

Central America: Environment Protection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to promote environmental awareness in central American nations in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such promotion in each such year. [59125]

Mr Duncan: The recent bilateral aid review (BAR) has enabled the Department for International Development (DFID) to better target UK aid where it will have the greatest impact on poverty. Central America was not identified as a region that should be a priority for receiving bilateral aid from the UK. The UK continues to support work in central America through contributions to multilateral organisations, including the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the European Commission and the United Nations. Moreover, a number of DFID's civil society partners are continuing to work with poor communities in parts of Latin America, including central America. Many of these organisations have been and will continue to promote environmental awareness in the region.

It would be a disproportionate cost to the Department to provide an annual breakdown of costs and activities undertaken in the region on environmental awareness over the last five years.

Central America: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to promote good governance in central American nations. [59131]

Mr Duncan: The recent bilateral aid review (BAR) has enabled the Department for International Development (DFID) to better target UK aid where it will have the greatest impact on poverty. Central America was not identified as a region that would receive bilateral aid from DFID. The UK continues to supports work in central American through contributions to multilateral organisations, including the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the European Commission and the United Nations. Moreover, a number of DFID's civil society partners operate in Latin America's poorest countries, including those in central America. Many of these organisations have been and will continue to promote good governance in the region.

DFID's governance and transparency fund supports civil society and the media to make Governments more transparent and accountable to their citizens. This fund supports 37 programmes around the world, including in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The programmes in central America work on a wide range of governance issues such as public expenditure accountability, budget transparency and natural resource governance.

Central America: Sustainable Development

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with Governments of central American nations on environmental sustainability. [59123]

Mr Duncan: Ministers have not had recent discussions with counterparts in central American countries on environmental sustainability.

The UK does not have a bilateral aid programme in any central American country. The UK supports work in central America through contributions to multilateral organisations, including the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the European Commission and the United Nations. A number of DFID's civil society partners also work with poor communities in parts of Latin America, including Central America.

Departmental Travel

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on private charter aircraft in each of the last 10 years. [58942]

Mr Duncan: In 2011, DFID has spent £4,513,253 so far on air charter, mostly for migrant repatriation flights at the beginning of the Libya crisis. In 2010, DFID spent £3,362,578 on chartering aircraft, mostly moving supplies and personnel to Haiti in the aftermath of the January 2010 Earthquake. In 2009, DFID spent £262,204 on chartering aircraft for similar purposes. These are the only years for which figures are available.

The costs detailed above represent those incurred through our central contracts, primarily covering humanitarian assistance. Details of costs incurred on local in-country charters could not be made available without incurring disproportionate cost.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on chartered boats in each of the last 10 years. [59120]

Mr Duncan: Available records show that the Department for International Development (DFID) has not chartered any boats in the last 10 years.

DFID provides budget assistance for aided territories, including payments for scheduled shipping subsidies.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has allocated to developing countries to assist with climate change mitigation programmes since 2009. [59127]

Mr Duncan: Between April 2009 and March 2011, the Department for International Development spent £668 million on climate programmes, of which £294 million was spent on low carbon development and £138.25 million on tackling deforestation.

Examples of results include: supporting investments to generate enough energy to power 16 million households through the clean technology fund; and in Nepal, increasing the incomes of 527,000 households by an average of 60% through the UK livelihoods and forestry programme.

The UK has allocated £2.9 billion, from April 2011 to March 2015, to support international poverty reduction by helping developing countries to adapt to climate change, take up low carbon growth, and tackle deforestation. DFID has been allocated £1.8 billion, the Department for Energy and Climate Change £1 billion and the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs £100 million.

The UK Government will aim to spend 50% of climate finance on adaptation. This will be kept under review. The remainder of climate finance will be spent on low carbon development and tackling deforestation.

Developing Countries: Food

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects figures on funds distributed under the L'Aquila food security initiative in 2010-11 to be available. [59147]

Mr Duncan: The UK's financial commitment under the L'Aquila food security initiative is £1.1 billion over the three financial years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12. In the fiscal year 2009-10, the Department for International Development disbursed £326 million, which is 29% of its total pledge. Our expectation is that the Department will disburse funds at a roughly equivalent level during 2010-11, but final figures will not be available before October 2011.

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of funds disbursed under the L'Aquila food security initiative was spent on initiatives to support women farmers in 2009-10. [59148]

Mr Duncan: In the fiscal year 2009-10, the UK disbursed £326 million, 29% of its total pledge. The L'Aquila food security initiative review group presently monitors spending but not results or types of beneficiaries.

The Department for International Development does not currently monitor gender disaggregated beneficiary figures but is planning to do so in future. Identifying the exact number of women farmers who benefited in 2009-10 and the proportion of funds spent specifically on them would involve disproportionate efforts and would not be considered good value for UK taxpayers' money.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department plans to provide for *(a)* prevention of and *(b)* research into HIV/AIDS in developing countries during the comprehensive spending review period. [59509]

Mr Duncan: In "Towards zero infections: the UK's position paper on HIV in the developing world", the UK Government commit to significantly reduce new HIV infections. Over the comprehensive spending review period our focus on combination prevention will prevent at least half a million new HIV infections among women in Africa, and support to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria will put 37,000 HIV-positive women on treatment to prevent transmission to their babies.

In terms of research, we are supporting the development of prevention technologies, microbicides and vaccines, against HIV through product development partnerships, including the international partnership for microbicides (IPM) and the international aids vaccine initiative (IAVI). In addition, the UK is supporting a wide range of other research into HIV, including the effect of HIV on co-infection with other diseases, on mothers and children and how to deliver HIV treatment in poor countries. A new research programme started in June 2011 to understand better the underlying drivers of HIV and find innovative solutions to halt its spread.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing for provision of anti-retroviral drugs to combat HIV/AIDS in developing countries. [59510]

Mr Duncan: In "Towards zero infections: the UK's position paper on HIV in the developing world" the UK Government outline our aim to reduce the costs of diagnosis and treatment. The UK will work with the pharmaceutical industry to get even more people on life-saving treatment. We will drive down costs for medicines, securing lower prices and better value for money in order to increase access.

Through our support to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, we will put 37,000 HIV-positive women on treatment to prevent HIV transmission to their babies and provide 268,000 people with anti-retroviral treatment for HIV. Our work with the Clinton Foundation to drive down treatment costs will generate enough cost-savings to purchase medicines-for an additional 500,000 people by 2015.

Developing Countries: Tax Avoidance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent estimate is of the effects of tax avoidance and evasion on GDP per capita in developing countries within the G77. [58983]

Mr Duncan: The Government have not carried out such an estimate. The Government recognise that tax evasion and avoidance is a serious problem, and we are committed to helping developing countries to protect and develop their tax base, but there are difficulties in calculating the exact impact of evasion and avoidance. A 2008 report "Tax evasion, tax avoidance and tax expenditures in developing countries: A review of the literature" by the Oxford University centre for business taxation for the Department for International Development highlighted the methodological and data difficulties with estimates of this type.

EU Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department gave directly to EU member states in each of the last five years. [59032]

Mr Duncan: My Department has not provided any bi-lateral (direct) aid funding to EU member states during the last five years.

G8

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the development outcomes of the G8 summit in May 2011 were; and if he will make a statement. [58947]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Among the significant development outcomes at this year's G8 summit was the agreement of the Deauville partnership to support democratic transition in the countries in the middle east and north Africa. The UK also secured G8 commitment to increasing support for regional integration in Africa, aimed at enhancing growth opportunities for African countries.

The summit endorsed the Deauville accountability report, which set out progress against G8 commitments on food security, maternal and child health and aid; and showed clearly—in real terms, excluding the impact of inflation—whether or not countries have met their aid commitments. The Prime Minister restated the UK's commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI as overseas aid from 2013 and strongly encouraged others to follow our example.

Government Procurement Card

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many disciplinary offences have been recorded in his Department for the improper use of a Government procurement card in each of the last five years. [59031]

Mr Duncan: No disciplinary offences have been recorded within the Department for International Development for the improper use of a Government procurement card in the last five years.

South America: Overseas Aid

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent in each country in south America in the last year for which figures are available. [59065]

Mr Duncan: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) aid expenditure in developing countries to 2009-10, including aid to countries in south America are published in Statistics on International Development (SID), which available in the House Library or online at

www.dfid.gov.uk

Figures for 2010-11 will be published in DFID's annual report in July.

St Helena: Airports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent progress has been made on the construction of an airport in St Helena. [58939]

Mr Duncan: By the deadline for submission of tenders for the St Helena airport at 5 pm BST on 10 June, we received a single tender from Basil Read (Pty) Ltd.

We will now proceed to evaluate this tender to assess whether the conditions set out by the Secretary to State in his written statement of 22 July 2010 can be met.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the environmental impact of the planned airport in St Helena. [59035]

Mr Duncan: A full environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the proposed St Helena airport was carried out to UK standards in 2006-07. The environmental statement was peer reviewed by the UK's Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and includes a comprehensive environmental management plan (EMP) for the construction and operation of the airport. The EIA and EMP were updated in 2011 to reflect revised runway proposals.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Ministers

Chris Bryant: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his policy is on the number of Ministers the Prime Minister would be allowed to appoint to membership of the reformed second Chamber at any one time. [58838]

Mr Harper: The Government published proposals for a wholly or mainly elected House of Lords on 17 May.

In the White Paper the Government have said the Prime Minister should also be able to appoint a limited number of people to serve as Ministers who would be members of the reformed House of Lords only for the duration of their appointment. The draft Bill makes provision for the detailed arrangements to implement this to be set out in secondary legislation, though the Government are open to including this in the Bill itself.

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister, pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 32W, on voting rights: prisoners, when he expects to announce what his next steps will be in response to the judgments on prisoner votes from the European Court of Human Rights. [59428]

Mr Harper: Under the terms of the Greens and MT judgment of the European Court of Human Rights, which became final on 11 April, the Government have six months to bring forward legislative proposals to end the current blanket ban on prisoners voting. The Government are considering the next steps and I will inform the House when decisions on the way forward have been reached.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions were performed in each of the last five years; and how many and what proportion of such procedures were performed *(a)* to save the life of the mother and *(b)* in cases of rape. [59042]

Anne Milton: Between 2006 and 2010 there were 966,206 abortions performed for residents of England and Wales. Of these, 3,373 were performed under sections 1.1 (b), 1.1 (c) and 1(4) of the 1967 Abortion Act i.e. to save the life of the pregnant woman, or to prevent permanent injury to her physical or mental health.

Information about abortions due to rape is not collected by the Department.

Burns: South East Network

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the review of the London and South East Burns Network. [58875]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not made any assessment of the review of the London and South East Burns Network. My hon. Friend may wish to contact the London Specialised Commissioning Group for further information, as it is leading the ongoing review.

Cancer: Health Services

Mel Stride: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the capability of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to carry out appraisals for innovative inhibitor therapies for rare cancers in instances where the target population is insufficient for the institute's study criteria to be met. [58885]

Paul Burstow: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has appraised, or is appraising, a number of inhibitor therapies for less common cancers. The potential size of the patient population is one consideration in determining whether NICE should develop guidance on a treatment. However, the overarching consideration is whether NICE guidance can add value in a particular case.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he has made in implementing the new cancer strategy contained in his Department's report 'Improving Outcomes: a Strategy for Cancer'. [58941]

Paul Burstow: We published 'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer' in January 2011, setting out the Government's plans to tackle preventable incidence of cancer and to improve outcomes for cancer patients. The strategy set out a range of areas where it plans to improve outcomes, such as survival rates and patient experience, in line with the NHS outcomes framework and the draft public health outcome framework. We will be assessing progress against those outcomes but it is too early to do so.

We can, however, assess progress in relation to actions that the strategy committed to in order to support delivery of improved outcomes. There has been progress across a wide range of these. For example, we launched pilots for the first national bowel cancer symptom awareness campaign on 31 January 2011 and have also funded a range of local activity to encourage earlier presentation with symptoms which could be cancer. Subject to evaluation and the lessons learned, the bowel cancer campaign will be rolled out nationwide.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure timely access to treatment by patients with rare forms of cancer; [59114]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to improve awareness amongst GPs of the symptoms of rare forms of cancer in children. [59150]

Paul Burstow: The cancer waiting time standard of a maximum 62-day wait, between urgent referral for suspected cancer from a general practitioner and the start of treatment, applies to all types of cancer, including those that could be considered rarer cancers. A review of cancer waiting times standards undertaken as part of the development of "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", published on 12 January, determined that this standard is beneficial for patients and that it should be maintained.

Consequently, the requirement to start treatment for these patients within 62 days has been retained in the "Operating Framework for the NHS in England for 2011/12". Statistics for the most recent period available (Quarter 4 2010-11) show that 87.3% of patients began cancer treatment within 62 days of urgent referral for suspected cancer. The expected level of performance for the 62-day standard is 85%.

"Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer" also set out our commitment to work with a number of rarer cancer charities to assess what more could be done to encourage appropriate referrals to secondary care and to diagnose rarer cancers earlier. Departmental officials have already met with a number of charities, including those concerned with cancers that affect children. The outcome of these discussions will inform our future work in this area.

Care Quality Commission

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will instigate a review of the work and management of the Care Quality Commission. [58876]

Mr Simon Burns: A number of inquiries are under way following the abuse exposed at Winterbourne View. The Government are clear that any failings in care are unacceptable. These include both an independently chaired serious case review, led by South Gloucestershire council, which will examine all the agencies involved and reviews by the Care Quality Commission, the national health service and the safeguarding boards.

Departmental officials, assisted by Mark Goldring, chief executive of Mencap, will then draw together the key lessons from these reviews. Once we have all the facts and have examined the results of the various inquiries, we will report further to Parliament.

Carers: Equal Opportunities

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with carers' organisations on steps to ensure that carers have equal opportunities in access to *(a)* further and higher education, *(b)* leisure and *(c)* training; and if he will make a statement. [58830]

Paul Burstow: We have had no specific discussions with carers' organisations on these issues. However, in "Recognised, valued and supported: Next steps for the Carers Strategy", we set out four priority areas for action. These included enabling those with caring responsibilities to fulfil their educational and employment potential and personalised support for carers and those they support, enabling them to have a family and community life.

The Department published "Carers and personalisation: Improving outcomes", a copy of which has been placed in the Library, alongside the updated carers' strategy. This illustrates how the principles of personalisation have been applied to carers to enable them to live a life outside caring including taking up educational, leisure and training opportunities.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects human papillomavirus testing for triage and test of cure as part of the NHS cervical screening programme to be available to all women who are eligible for it. [59139]

Paul Burstow: 'The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011-12' states that commissioners should work with their local services and national health service cancer screening programmes to implement human papillomavirus (HPV) testing as triage for women with mild or borderline screening test results, leading to a more patient-centred service and major cost savings.

NHS cancer screening programmes held a workshop with front-line cervical screening staff in March 2011 to develop recommendations on how this will be achieved. Advice to the service, including implementation guidance, will be issued later in the summer. The intention is that, subject to meeting certain criteria, local cervical screening programmes will implement HPV triage in 2011-12 and HPV test of cure in 2012-13. Implementing both improvements in the same year would risk the quality and safety of the current programme and put an unnecessary burden on colposcopy services.

Circle: Health

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the performance of Circle in providing NHS services in 2010-11. [59331]

Mr Simon Burns: Circle delivers both national health service-funded services and services for private patients from its hospitals.

Circle currently holds two contracts under the independent sector treatment centres (ISTC) programme. LP3 Burton (NHS South Staffs) is due to expire in July 2011 and GC5E Nottingham (NHS Nottingham City) is due to expire in July 2013. Circle previously held a contract for LP2 Bradford (NHS Bradford and Airedale). This contract expired in January 2010 and was re-procured locally by the NHS. Circle also delivers activity to NHS patients through the extended choice network (ECN) which is paid at tariff and has no guaranteed volume payment.

Responsibility for the day-to-day management of the contract resides with the local NHS. The Department collects and monitors financial and activity data in relation to the ISTC programme.

The following table sets out the total paid to Circle for all ISTC contracts and the total value of the activity provided. The table also includes data for activity provided through the ECN/FCN frameworks.

Centrally procured IS activity total value paid to circle

£

Financial year	*Paid to provider*[1]	*Activity value*	*ISTC utilisation (%)*	*ECN/FCN*	*Total Wave 1 + ECN paid*
2008-09	47,025,938	38,513,013	82	68,619	47,094,557
2009-10	66,264,368	60,742,757	92	13,174	66,277,542
2010-11	69,933,920	65,952,765	94	2,204,046	72,137,967
	183,224,226	165,208,535	90	2,285,840	185,510,066

[1] Wave 1 schemes LP2 Bradford, LP3 Burton, GC5E Nottingham

Notes:

1. 'Value of procedures performed' is for is the monetary value of procedures performed under the pricing formula in the ISTC contract.
2. 'Paid to provider' is the guarantee amount plus any other activity charge under the contract.

Directors: Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the annual salary is of the managing director of NHS South West London; [58905]

(2) what the total cost to the public purse, including pension provision, was of the post of managing director of NHS South West London in the last year for which figures are available. [58906]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally. Approval of pay for very senior managers in NHS South West London is a matter for the London strategic health authority.

General Practitioners: Telephone Services

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the proportion of GP surgeries in England which use premium 0844 numbers for patients seeking appointment; and if he will make a statement. [59307]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has made no assessment of the proportion of general practitioner surgeries in England that use 0844 numbers for patients seeking appointments.

The Department issued guidance and directions to national health, service bodies in December 2009 on the cost of telephone calls, which prohibit the use of telephone numbers which charge the patient more than the equivalent cost of calling a geographical number to contact the NHS. It is currently the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure that local practices are compliant with the directions and guidance.

Health Services

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health of 17 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 319, on public health observatories, what the purpose is of the Government's £12 million contribution to public health observatories. [58997]

Anne Milton: To clarify my statement further, the Government contributed around £12 million to public health observatories (PHOs) in both financial year 2009-10 and financial year 2010-11.

The purpose of this funding was to:

deliver and maintain the PHO leadership, management and infrastructure across its nine offices in England; and

deliver a work programme individually and collectively comprising national, regional and local components.

The primary activities of the PHOs are to:

analyse information and data to produce meaningful health intelligence;

work in partnership with practitioners, government, health and academic organisations at local and national level;

develop public health expertise and in-depth knowledge of health and health care at a regional level; and

monitor and forecast trends in health status and disease, and play a major role in showing how health inequalities are being tackled locally and regionally.

Finally, the funding also supports the integration and interfaces of the PHOs and their staff with other elements of the public health information and intelligence infrastructure including the cancer registries, the national Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, quality observatories and congenital anomalies registers.

HIV Infection: Reading

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people newly diagnosed with HIV in Reading in the latest period for which figures are available; and what steps he is taking to reduce the number of people diagnosed with HIV. [58994]

Anne Milton: The information available is shown in the following table.

Individuals newly diagnosed with HIV in Berkshire West Primary Care Trust (PCT) by year of diagnosis, 2006-10

Year of diagnosis	*HIV diagnoses*
2006	65
2007	71
2008	71
2009	61
2010	64

Notes:

1. These data represent new HIV diagnoses made in Berkshire West PCT, within which Reading is located. The area of diagnosis is not necessarily the area of residence of an individual and therefore data are not currently presented lower than PCT level.
2. Diagnoses are from reports received by the HPA to the end of December 2010. Numbers will rise as further reports are received.
3. Patients may live with HIV for many years before they are diagnosed. Therefore, new diagnosis data do not necessarily reflect recently acquired infections.

Source:

Health Protection Agency (HPA)

In relation to reducing HIV diagnosis, we are now better able to target those communities whose behaviour puts them at increased risk of HIV. These are men who have sex with men and black African communities living in the United Kingdom. That is why the Department works in partnership with the Terrence Higgins Trust, the African Health Policy Network and other voluntary and community organisations in supporting targeted HIV prevention programmes.

In addition, the Department has funded eight pilot projects in high prevalence areas looking at new approaches to HIV testing in primary care, non-specialist hospital settings and community social settings. We are considering the findings from these projects.

Hospitals: Admissions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of hospital admissions that are alcohol-related in the latest period for which figures are available. [59109]

Anne Milton: The information is in the following table. These data should not be described as a count of people as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion.

Estimate of alcohol-related admission episodes[1], total eligible finished admission episodes (FAEs)[2] and total FAEs; 2009-10: Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Total alcohol-related admissions	*Total eligible FAEs*	*Total FAEs*	*Percentage of admissions that are alcohol-related (based on Total alcohol-eligible FAEs)*
2009-10	1,056,962.34	14,395,550	14,445,354	7.3

[1] Estimate of Alcohol-related admissions:

The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO), which uses 48 indicators for alcohol-related illnesses, determining the proportion of a wide range of diseases and injuries that can be partly attributed to alcohol as well as those that are, by definition, wholly attributable to alcohol. Further information on these proportions can be found at

www.nwph.net/nwpho/publications/AlcoholAttributableFractions.pdf

The application of the NWPHO methodology was updated in summer 2010 and is now available directly from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). As such, information about episodes estimated to be alcohol related may be slightly different from previously published data.

[2] Finished admission episodes (FAEs):

FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. It should be noted that the figures provided for eligible FAEs relate to English resident patients with a known sex and age only and not admissions in England of individuals who reside in other parts of the United Kingdom or foreign nationals. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients.

Note:

Data quality: HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Leukaemia: Medical Treatments

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects second-line treatments for chronic myeloid leukaemia to be approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [59185]

Paul Burstow: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently appraising dasatinib, high-dose imatinib and nilotinib for the treatment of imatinib-resistant chronic myeloid leukaemia. We understand that NICE expects to issue its final guidance to the national health service in autumn 2011.

Further information is available at:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA/WaveR/99

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many chronic myeloid leukaemia patients were prescribed standard dose imatinib in the last year for which figures are available. [59186]

Paul Burstow: Information on the number of people prescribed a medicine, the dosage or the medical condition being treated, is not collected centrally. Imatinib can be used to treat a range of medical conditions, including chronic myeloid leukaemia.

In the year 2010, there were 3,262 items for imatinib dispensed in the community in England, written in the United Kingdom, with a net ingredient cost of £8.9 million. This figure is taken from the prescription cost analysis database.

Also, in 2010 the cost of imatinib used in hospitals in England, is estimated to be £55.2 million. This figure is taken from the hospital pharmacy audit index. Data on the number of items prescribed in hospitals are not available centrally.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of patients prescribed standard dose imatinib who are likely to become resistant to the treatment; [59187]

(2) what treatments are available on the NHS to chronic myeloid leukaemia patients who become resistant to standard dose imatinib. [59188]

Paul Burstow: No central assessment has been made of the proportion of patients with chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) treated with imatinib who are likely to become resistant to the treatment. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence issued guidance to the national health service in 2003 that recommends that imatinib can be used as a first-line treatment for CML patients meeting specific clinical criteria.

Treatment options for CML patients who have developed resistance to imatinib can include interferon alfa, busulfan and hydroxycarbamide, or a bone marrow or stem cell transplant.

Life

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the organisation Life has been appointed to his Department's sexual health forum. [59141]

Anne Milton: Life has been invited to sit on the sexual health forum because it is important to ensure that a wide range of views and interests are represented.

Mental Health Services

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the appropriateness of the right of mentally-ill patients not held under the provisions of the Mental Health Act 1983 to discharge themselves from hospital in circumstances where they may be a danger to themselves. [59052]

Paul Burstow: Patients not detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 are free to discharge themselves from hospital at any time. Where it is considered that a patient may be a danger to themselves if they were to leave, there is provision under the Act for that patient to remain in hospital under holding powers. One power may be exercised by the doctor (or nominated deputy) or approved clinician in charge of the patient's treatment and can remain in force for up to 72 hours. In addition, in the absence of the doctor or the approved clinician, certain nurses may authorise detention for up to six hours.

National health service staff also have to consider the requirements of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, which provide a framework for decision making for people who lack capacity to make their own decisions. This requires best interests decisions to be made and the deprivation of liberty safeguards to be applied if a deprivation of liberty is being considered.

NHS Blood and Transplant: Publicity

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been *(a)* requested by and *(b)* allocated to NHS Blood and Transplant's public awareness campaigns for 2011-12. [59369]

Anne Milton: In 2011-12, NHS Blood and Transplant has sought approval to spend £2.79 million on organ donation awareness campaigns, and £4.58 million on blood donation awareness. So far, approval has been given to spend to £615,000 on organ donation awareness, and £2.29 million on blood donation awareness.

NHS Walk-in Centres: Morecambe

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to assess the viability of an NHS walk-in centre in Morecambe. [59237]

Mr Simon Burns: No assessment has been made by the Department on the viability of a national health service walk-in centre in Morecambe. The provision of local NHS services, including walk-in services, is a matter for the local NHS to determine according to the health care needs of the local population.

NHS: Freedom of Information

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 120-1W, on NHS: freedom of information, where the information is held to which reference is made in the answer. [59055]

Mr Simon Burns: Individual statutory bodies, including national health service bodies such as special health authorities, strategic health authorities, primary care trusts, NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts, are responsible in their own right for their duties under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Department does not require NHS bodies to report their expenditure on providing information requested under the provisions of the Act. Local NHS organisations would be best placed to compile any estimate of these costs.

North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust: Finance

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has allocated to the North East Ambulance Service for each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [58910]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not allocated any funding directly to the North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust for each year of the comprehensive spending review period. Rather, the Department currently makes revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs). The most recent round of allocations to PCTs was for 2011-12. It is for PCTs to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities. NHS trusts primarily derive income through the provision of health services to PCTs.

Nurses: North East

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diabetic specialist nurses were employed in the north-east for each year since the creation of the post. [58969]

Mr Simon Burns: The employment of diabetic specialist nurses is a matter for the national health service locally and as such, the information requested is not centrally collected.

Nurses: West Midlands

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received about the planned reduction in commissioned nurse places in the west midlands in 2011-12. [59135]

Anne Milton: A search has been made of the relevant departmental databases which has found 13 items of correspondence and one parliamentary question about commissioned nurse places in the west midlands in 2011-12. It is likely that this figure will represent the majority of correspondence received, if not all of it.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential effects on patient care of planned reductions in nursing commissions in the west midlands; and if he will make a statement. [59142]

Anne Milton: Strategic health authorities (SHAs) are responsible for setting levels of nursing commissions. There is a service level agreement between the Department and SHAs for the multi-professional education and Training budget, which requires SHAs to base their education and training commissioning on the workforce plans of providers.

The West Midlands SHA has confirmed that it has finalised its plans based on workforce planning information and following discussions with national health service organisations and higher education institutions providing health professional training programmes. Departmental officials will work with the SHA to review the situation and ensure that the planned level of commissions remains appropriate.

Organs: Donors

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to *(a)* increase awareness of organ donation and *(b)* encourage the registration of organ donors. [59026]

Anne Milton: There are a number of initiatives planned or in place to raise awareness about the benefits of organ donation and to encourage more people to add their name to the organ donor register (ODR). Much of the work is led by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) in liaison with a number of partners in the private, public and third sectors to encourage people to join the ODR (for example, when registering with a doctor).

Earlier this year NHSBT ran a campaign targeted specifically at black and minority ethnic (BME) communities, highlighting the importance of people from black and Asian communities joining the ODR and discussing their donation wishes with family members. The campaign included a tour of shopping centres in areas with a high concentration of black and Asian communities, visits to Hindu, Sikh and Muslim faith organisations and places of worship, advertising on black and Asian television channels, radio stations and newspapers, a social media campaign and a poster display in community shops and outlets.

NHSBT is also working in partnership with the Department of Transport and Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to introduce "prompted choice" on 17 July 2011. The prompted choice approach requires people applying for a driving licence online to make a choice about organ donation. If successful, NHSBT will consider rolling out the approach in other areas.

National transplant week is an annual event to be held between the 4 and 10 July 2011. NHSBT is leading a consortium of partner organisations to plan activity under the theme of "What Are You Waiting For?" Through outreach events, case studies, media engagement and the use of social media tools such as Twitter, the campaign will also highlight how quick and easy it is to join the NHS ODR.

As local public figures, we would urge hon. Members to use every opportunity to raise this issue with their local media, to encourage people to discuss organ donation with their families, and to sign up.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were registered organ donors in each of the last five years. [59027]

Anne Milton: The number of people registered on the organ donor register (ODR) over the last five years has increased from 12.3 million to 17.7 million. Details are set out in the following table:

Additions to the ODR, April 2006 to March 2011, by year

	Number
Total on ODR as at 1 April 2006	12,334,000
added in-year:	
2006-07	1,128,000
2007-08	1,109,000
2008-09	1,073,000
2009-10	1,191,000
2010-11	930,000
Total on ODR at 31 March 2011	17,765,000

Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria are used to assess the status of death in interpreting the wishes of holders of NHS Blood and Transplant organ donor cards. [59182]

Anne Milton: Death is confirmed by a doctor or doctors who are entirely independent of the transplant team. Death is confirmed in exactly the same way for people who donate organs as for those who do not. Donation will only proceed with valid consent.

Most organ donors are patients who have died as a result of a brain haemorrhage, severe head injury, or stroke and who are on a ventilator in a hospital intensive care unit. In these circumstances, death is diagnosed by brain stem tests. There are very clear and strict standards and procedures for doing these tests and they are always performed by two experienced doctors.

The ventilator provides oxygen which keeps the heart beating and blood circulating after death. Donation following the irreversible cessation of brain-stem function is called donation after brain death or DBD.

Patients who die in hospital but are not on a ventilator can, in some circumstances, also donate. This is called donation after cardiac or circulatory death or DCD.

"A Code of Practice for the Diagnosis and Confirmation of Death 2008" is available on the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges website:

www.aomrc.org.uk/publications/reports-guidance.html

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the NHS Blood and Transplant strategic plan 2011-14, what plans he has to promote more widely the economic case for organ donation and transplantation. [59367]

Anne Milton: The NHS Blood and Transplant strategic plan 2011-14 states that in addition to saving and improving lives there is an economic case for organ transplantation. The existing transplantation programme realises gross annual savings in excess of £300 million versus alternative medical treatments.

It has been estimated that the impact of increasing the number of organs available by 50% for transplant by 2013 would increase the savings to the national health service by an additional £200 million a year. NHS Blood and Transplant is working closely with clinical leads for organ donation and donation committees within hospital trusts as well as the wider NHS to promote the economic case for donation.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the levels of compliance by coroners with its guidance on organ donation. [59373]

Anne Milton: NHS Blood and Transplant is in the process of collecting more detailed information about when coroners refuse permission for donation (either for all or specific organs) to gain a better understanding of current practice. These data will be collected for 12 months from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 but will be reviewed after six months to establish if any trends or significant differences in coroner practice are emerging.

Out-of-Area Treatment: Wales

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with Welsh Government Ministers on the effect of his proposed NHS reforms on cross-border service delivery. [59126]

Anne Milton: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health, met Ministers of the Welsh Assembly Government on 1 December 2010 to discuss the future of the cross-border commissioning protocol.

It was agreed that until the forthcoming changes to the manner in which health care in England is commissioned are finalised in the Health and Social Care Bill currently going through Parliament, no substantial changes to the cross-border protocol should be introduced.

The intention was therefore that the protocol due to expire on the 31 March 2011 should be renewed with minimal changes for one year, to run seamlessly, and this is what has now been agreed.

Patients: Nutrition

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training and support is given to nurses in assessing the nutritional needs of patients. [59136]

Anne Milton: The content and standard of health care education is the responsibility of the independent regulatory bodies. In their role as custodian of quality standards in education and practice, the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is the regulatory body with responsibility for nursing and sets standards for nursing and midwifery education programmes.

The NMC has recently introduced new standards for nurse education and training that contain essential skills clusters that are incorporated into all nurse education programmes. The skills associated with these clusters include training and knowledge on nutrition and fluid management.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to provide nutritional screening for vulnerable patients on admission to hospital. [59137]

Anne Milton: Local national health service organisations are responsible for nutrition screening policies. There are a number of initiatives in place to help organisations develop their policies. These include the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on malnutrition, in which all in-patients should be weighed, measured and have their body mass index calculated on admission; the "Essence of Care" benchmarking system which includes "food and drink" covering screening and assessment on initial contact; and the Council of Europe resolution on food and nutritional care in hospital covering screening of all patients on admission to hospital.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve the quality of data on malnutrition *(a)* collected by the NHS and *(b)* published by his Department. [59144]

Paul Burstow: The interpretation of national health service data on malnutrition, obtained from information on primary and secondary diagnoses recorded on hospital episode statistics, is not straightforward.

The Health and Social Care Information Centre has a role in reviewing and in seeking improvements in the quality of the data it collects. Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill through Parliament, the Secretary of State for Health or the NHS Commissioning Board will determine which data are collected by the Health and Social Care Information Centre. The Information Centre will also be able to consider additional requests from other arm's length bodies, and carry out those data collections if specific criteria are met.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to the report of 26 May 2011 by the Care Quality Commission on dignity and nutrition for older people, what progress his Department is making in reducing the incidence of malnutrition in acute healthcare settings. [59145]

Paul Burstow: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health, requested the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to conduct a programme of unannounced inspections of hospitals providing care for older people. The CQC looked at compliance against the essential standards for dignity and nutrition. The first 12 reports were published on 26 May 2011 and 40 reports have been published so far. In instances where compliance problems were identified, the trusts concerned are required to submit reports to the CQC setting out the actions they will take to improve. Strategic health authorities will monitor progress locally and the CQC will check to make sure that improvements have been made.

Respite Care: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assistance his Department is providing to expand the provision of respite care in Peterborough constituency; and if he will make a statement; [59396]

(2) what assistance his Department is providing to extend the provision of respite care in Peterborough constituency; and if he will make a statement. [59398]

Paul Burstow: The Department is providing additional funding of £400 million to the national health service over the next four years to enable more carers to take breaks from their caring responsibilities. The money is not ring-fenced as primary care trusts have flexibility to decide how much to invest on individual priorities in the light of their local circumstances and priorities.

In the "NHS Operating Framework for 2011/12" we made clear that:

> 'PCTs should agree policies, plans and budgets to support carers with local authorities and local carers' organisations, and make them available to local people.'

Streptococcal Infections

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of testing for group B streptococcal infections in pregnant women; [59110]

(2) what steps he is taking to prevent group B streptococcal infections in newborn babies. [59111]

Anne Milton: The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) advises Ministers and the national health service in all four countries about all aspects of screening policy. The UK NSC reviewed the policy for screening for group B streptococcus (GBS) in pregnant women in 2009 and concluded that the evidence did not support its introduction. The UK NSC will review its policy position again on GBS carriage in pregnancy screening in 2012 or earlier if any significant new peer reviewed evidence emerges.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) has a green-top guideline, "Prevention of Early onset Group B Streptococcal Disease" which provides guidance for obstetricians, midwives and neonatologists on the prevention of early-onset neonatal GBS. The RCOG also produce parallel patient information, Preventing group B streptococcus infection in newborn babies ("Information for You"), for women and their families who are expecting a baby or are planning to get pregnant. Advice is also available on the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk/chq/pages/
2580.aspx?categoryid=54&subcategoryid=137

Strokes: Children

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's stroke quality standard is to address the prevention and management of stroke in paediatric patients. [58720]

Mr Simon Burns: The stroke quality standard was published in June 2010 and addresses the care provided to adult stroke patients by health care staff during diagnosis and initial management, acute-phase care, rehabilitation and long-term management. It does not cover the prevention and management of stroke in paediatric patients.

A consultation on the library of quality standard topics will follow later this year.

Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust: Redundancy

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff of the Sunderland teaching primary trust took voluntary redundancy in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [58908]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not centrally available for the period requested. The electronic staff record shows that during the period June 2010 to March 2011 there were 49 voluntary redundancies at Sunderland teaching primary care trust. This is the latest centrally available data.

Transplant Surgery: Waiting Lists

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of patients who died while waiting for a transplant in each of the last five years. [59106]

Anne Milton: The information is provided in the following table.

Deaths while waiting for an organ transplant, April 2006 to March 2011, by year

	Died while waiting	*Removed/died*[1]	*Total*
2006-07	510	144	654
2007-08	551	112	663
2008-09	491	194	685
2009-10	558	134	692
2010-11	492	224	716

[1] Patients who were removed from the list because they were too ill and subsequently died.

Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of people on a waiting list for a transplant. [59107]

Anne Milton: The information is provided in the following table.

Patients listed for an organ transplant at 8 June 2011, by status

	Number
Active	7,569
Suspended	2,896
Total	10,465

Note:
'Active' means the patient is currently in a state to receive a transplant.
'Suspended' means they are temporarily unable to receive a transplant (though they ultimately need one) as they are too ill, away, etc.
Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Blackstone Group

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will institute an inquiry as to whether Blackstone is a fit and proper company to conduct business in the UK. [58389]

Mr Davey: The United Kingdom does not impose a general fit and proper requirement on companies or company directors. Specific business areas are subject to regulatory supervision, which may include a form of fit and proper test. Company directors may also be disqualified from acting as a director under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986.

Business

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress his Department has made on simplification of Government support for businesses; and if he will make a statement. [58490]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 9 June 2011]:* The new streamlined Solutions for Business products were announced in March this year. There are 13 products designed to help businesses identify and overcome key challenges as they grow and develop. It will target activities where a Government lead is required, such as providing access to strategic advice, helping companies reach international markets and supporting innovation. We are currently in the transition period and the 13 products should be available by early 2012.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the name is of each business support scheme facilitated by his Department. [58492]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 9 June 2011]:* In March 2011 the streamlined Solutions for Business portfolio was announced. This portfolio contains 13 products which are:

High Growth Coaching
Helping Your Business Grow Internationally
Manufacturing Advisory Service
Designing Demand
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships
Networking for Innovation
Collaborative Research and Development
Grant for Research and Development
Workplace Training, including Apprenticeships
Improving Your Resource Efficiency
Finance for Business
Understanding Finance for Business
Rural Development Programme for England Business Support

Other business support schemes facilitated by DBIS which are not included in the Solutions for Business portfolio are:

Enterprise Finance Guarantee
Export Credit Insurance
Maximising Foreign Direct Investment
Grant for Business Investment (only available for large exceptional cases)

Business: National Vocational Qualifications

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for future funding of the Business Improvement Techniques NVQ. [58211]

Mr Hayes: The Skills Funding Agency has confirmed that the Business Improvement Techniques NVQ will continue to be funded at least until the end of the 2011/12 academic year.

Work-based learning is vital to ensure that we stimulate the private sector growth that will bring new jobs and prosperity to Britain. As set out in "Skills for Sustainable Growth", which was published on 16 November 2010, apprenticeships will be at the heart of the further education (FE) and skills system. Alongside apprenticeships and entitlements for the low skilled, we will prioritise Government funding for work place learning in small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs; those with fewer that 250 employees). We have also given further education and training organisations increased freedoms and flexibilities enabling them to respond to the needs of the learners, employers and communities they serve.

Debts: Citizens Advice Bureaux

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have requested help for debt-related problems from citizens advice bureaux in Wales in *(a)* the last 12 months for which figures are available and *(b)* the previous 12 months. [58930]

Mr Davey: The Department does not collect data from citizens advice bureaux (CAB) as it is a charitable membership organisation and not a direct agency of Government. However, data found on the Citizens Advice website show 145,265 individuals requesting help for debt related problems from CAB in Wales in 2010/11. In 2009/10 the figure was 132,015.

Further information can be found on the following webpage:

http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/index/aboutus/publications/advice_trends.htm

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much each executive agency of his Department has spent on travel by *(a)* private hire vehicles, *(b)* trains, *(c)* buses, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56080]

Mr Davey: I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office, the UK Space Agency and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to the hon. Lady directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 25 May 2011:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how much each executive agency in his Department has spent on travel by (a) private hire vehicles, (b) trains, (c) buses, (d) commercial aircraft and (e) private aircraft since May 2010.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, spent the following amounts in the 12 months May 2010 till April 2011 inclusive in respect of:

a. Private hire vehicles made up of:

i. Taxis: £2.666

ii. Hire Cars: £5,208

b. Trains: £594,881

c. Buses: Not available

d. Commercial aircraft: £7,657

e. Private aircraft: Nil

Staff can claim for bus fares as part of their subsistence claims for incidental expenses of £2.90 per day. It is not possible to disaggregate the bus element of incidental expense claims.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 20 May 2011:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 12 May 2011, UIN56080 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

You have asked for the details of what we have spent on various forms of travel since May 2010. Unfortunately, I can only provide the information for the financial year as a whole, as re-calculating the costs so as to exclude the April figures would be disproportionately expensive. With that proviso the costs are as follows:

Mode of Transport	*Cost (£)*
Private Hire Vehicles (Car Hire)	13,590
Trains	50,901
Buses	0
Commercial Aircraft	20,181
Private Aircraft	0
Total	84,672

Further details relating to Companies House's spend on travel are published on our website under the Transparency Agenda. This can be found at:

http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/about/publicExpenditure.shtml

and you will find figures under the heading 'Government Procurement Card Spend'.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 24 May 2011:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 12th May 2011 [reference 2010/5378] to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking how much each executive agency in his Department has spent on travel by (a) private hire vehicles, (b) trains, (c) buses, (d) commercial aircraft and (e) private aircraft since May 2010.

The Agency has spent the following amounts between May 2010 and April 2011

(a) private hire vehicles: £10,579,

(b) trains (including underground travel): £14,842,

(c) buses: £337,

(d) commercial aircraft: £5,549, and

(e) private aircraft: £ nil.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 23 May 2011:

Thank you for your parliamentary question addressed to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking how much the Skills Funding Agency (the Agency) has spent on travel by (a) private hire vehicles, (b) trains, (c) buses, (d) commercial aircraft and (e) private aircraft since May 2010.

Please be advised that in the year May 2010 to April 2011 the Agency spent the following amounts on travel, which have been extracted from the information we publish online:

	£
(a) Private hire vehicles (car hire and taxis)	250,288.35
(b) Trains	979,568.32
(c) Buses	[1]—
d) Commercial aircraft	13,478.73
e) Private aircraft	0.00

[1] Information is held on individual claims but not recorded separately in the accounts as it is considered to be of insignificant value

At May 2010 the number of Agency employees was 1,950.

Letter from Dr David Williams, dated 26 May 2011:

Thank you for your question addressed to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills asking how much each executive agency in his Department has spent on travel by (a) private hire vehicles, (b) trains, (c) buses, (d) commercial aircraft and (e) private aircraft since May 2010. (56080)

The UK Space Agency became an executive agency on the 1st April 2011 and there have been no recorded transactions for the above criteria since this date.

Letter from John Alty, dated 27 May 2011:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 12th May 2011, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

From May 2010 until the end of April 2011 the Intellectual Property Office spent the following amounts,

	£000
Private hire vehicles	25
Trains	193
Buses	1
Commercial aircraft	140

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent on travel in respect of *(a)* each of his Department's Executive agencies and *(b)* the chief executive of each such agency since May 2010. [56174]

Mr Davey: I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office, the UK Space Agency and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to the hon. Lady directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 25 May 2011:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how much has been spent on travel in respect of (a) each of his Department's executive agencies and (b) the chief executive of each such agency since May 2010. (56174).

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, spent the following amounts on travel in the 12 months May 2010 till April 2011 inclusive in respect of:

	£
Chief executive	2,222
All staff	[1]610,412

[1] Including chief executive.

The travel costs are made up of the cost of rail, commercial aircraft, hire cars and taxis. Staff can claim for bus fares as part of their subsistence claims for incidental expenses of £2.90 per day. It is not possible to disaggregate and report the cost of the bus element of incidental expense claims and thus bus costs have not been included or reported.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 20 May 2011:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 12 May 2011, UIN 56174 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

You have asked for the details of what we have spent on travel since May 2010. Unfortunately, I can only provide the information for the financial year as a whole, as re-calculating the costs so as to exclude the April figures would be disproportionately expensive. With that proviso the costs are as follows:

Spent by:	*Cost (£)*
Agency	84,672
CEO	2,119

Further details relating to Companies House's spend on travel are published on our website under the Transparency Agenda. This can be found at:

http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/about/publicExpenditure.shtml

and you will find the figures under the heading 'Government Procurement Card Spend'.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 24 May 2011:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 12th May 2011 [reference 2010/5381] to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking how much has been spent on travel in respect of (a) each of his Department's executive agencies and (b) the chief executive of each such agency since May 2010.

The Agency has spent £89,675 on travel between May 2010 and April 2011. The Chief Executive has spent £3,490 on travel during the same period. These figures include spend on hotels and meals while travelling.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 23 May 2011:

Thank you for your parliamentary question addressed to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking how much (a) the Skills Funding Agency (the Agency) and (b) its chief executive have spent on travel since May 2010.

Please be advised in the year May 2010 to April 2011 the Agency spent the following amounts, which have been extracted from the information we publish online:

	£
(a) Travel	2,733,879.34
(b) Travel by the chief executive[1]	8,872.59

[1] Included in the amount above.

At May 2010 the number of Agency employees was 1,950.

Letter from Emma Lord, dated 16th May 2011

Thank you for your question addressed to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent on travel in respect of (a) each of his Department's executive agencies and (b) the chief executive of each such agency since May 2010. (56174)

The UK Space Agency became an executive agency on the 1st April 2011 and the recorded transactions for the above criteria since this date are (a) £155 for mileage. There are no recorded transactions for criteria (b).

Letter from John Alty, dated 27 May 2011:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 12th May 2011, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office has spent £448,000 on travel, between May 2010 and April 2011. Of this £21,000 related to travel undertaken by the chief executive.

Employment Agencies: EU Law

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he has given to *(a)* amending the content and *(b)* delaying the implementation of the agency workers directive regulations; and if he will make a statement. [59705]

Mr Davey: As set out in my statement to the House on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 49WS, I have considered amending the regulations. However, opening up the regulations to amendments would have put at risk the 12-week qualifying period arising from the social partner agreement, which significantly mitigates the burdens the legislation will place on employers. Therefore the Government will not be amending the regulations.

The deadline for member states to implement the agency workers directive is 5 December 2011. In order to meet this deadline we are introducing the regulations at the closest common commencement date, which is October 2011. In advance of the regulations coming into force, DBIS has worked closely with all parties to develop accompanying guidance to help businesses, hirers and agency workers understand and prepare for the changes. This is available online at

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/employment-matters/strategies/awd

English Language: Education

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood of 17 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 150W, on the English language: education, on what date before the summer recess he plans to publish the equality impact assessment on proposals for the future funding of English for speakers of other languages courses. [59089]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 10 June 2011]*: An assessment of how the changes announced in Skills for Sustainable

Growth may affect English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) learners is currently being carried out by the Department. I expect to be able to publish this before the summer recess.

Export Credit Guarantees

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what overseas public projects were funded by the Export Credits Guarantee Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [57986]

Mr Davey: The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) provides guarantees to banks and insurance policies to exporters in support of export contracts with overseas buyers. It publishes a list of the guarantees and insurance policies it has issued in its annual report and accounts, the latest available being in respect of the 2009-10 financial year. The list includes details of the obligors under each facility. Copies of ECGD's annual report and accounts are available from the Libraries of the House and from ECGD's website.

Flood Control: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the potential sums to be spent on flood defence projects by the Green Investment Bank in the first three years of its operation. [58208]

Mr Prisk: Flood defence projects in themselves do not generate revenue streams which can help fund the costs of any capital provided by the Green Investment Bank (GIB) or pay back other sources of financing. The benefits of flood defence projects tend to be in terms of avoided losses, land and property values, and insurability against flood damages. We do not therefore anticipate that the GIB will be making any such investments.

Further Education: Admissions

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people entered formal post-16 education in further education colleges in *(a)* 2000 and *(b)* 2009. [58912]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 as follows shows the number of young people participating on a government-funded further education course at a further education college in 2001/02, the earliest year for which we hold this data.

Table 2 shows number of young people participating on a government-funded further education course at a further education college in 2009/10.

These tables are not directly comparable due to changes in the funding methodology used to determine a government-funded learner over this period.

Table 1: Young people in further education, 2001/02

	Under 19 years old	*19-24 years old*
Further education college participation	497,000	402,600
All further education participation	647,200	453,800

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Table 2: Young people in further education, 2009/10

	Under 19 years old	*19-24 years old*
Further education college participation	682,200	398,900
All further education participation	1,095,000	770,600

Notes:
1. Data have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Further education colleges include tertiary colleges.
3. Further information on learner numbers in 2001 can be found in an historic Statistical First Release at:
http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/ILRSFR02.pdf
4. Table 2 shows a breakdown by age of information published as a cascade of the FE and Skills First Release at:
http://mireportslibrary.thedataservice.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/49370DDC-4C3E-452C-948C-AA2E1FD10F37/0/FEandSkills_providertype_finalV3.xls
Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Government Departments: Apprentices

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprentices there are in each Government department. [58849]

Mr Hayes: The latest available data collected by Government Skills cover apprenticeship starts during the period April 2010 to March 2011. During this period there were a total of 2,120 apprenticeship starts within Government Departments.

Green Investment Bank

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential contribution to the private capital of the Green Investment Bank of Government-guaranteed green bonds in capital markets. [58320]

Mr Prisk: The Green Investment Bank (GIB) will be capitalised during this Parliament with £3 billion of public funding.

It will have borrowing powers in 2015 and once the target for debt to be falling as a percentage of gross domestic product has been met. This will allow the GIB to significantly scale up its activities.

At the moment, we are not seeking to be prescriptive about which form the borrowing should take. There are a range of possible options, direct from the capital markets (including green bonds) or via the National Loans Fund or Debt Management Office. In due course, the merits of each possible mechanism will need to be judged according to criteria that weigh up their relative costs and benefits.

In due course, the Government will also determine the GIB's borrowing limit, as this will score against public sector net debt.

Higher Education:Part-time Education

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of higher education institutions (HEIs) on steps to ensure that study through the part-time mode is financially sustainable for *(a)* students and *(b)* the provider HEI; and if he will make a statement; [58986]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Open university and *(b)* Birbeck college on steps to ensure that under-represented groups in higher education receive adequate financial support; and if he will make a statement. [58987]

Mr Willetts: I have had a number of discussions with representatives of higher education institutions (HEIs) about our package of reforms, including its impact on part-time students and HEIs.

I meet representatives of the Open university and Birkbeck college on a regular basis to discuss all aspects of part-time student support, including support that will be provided to encourage under-represented groups in higher education.

From 2012/13 eligible new part-time students will not need to pay their tuition charges upfront as they will be able to access loans in order to pay for their tuition, as is the case for full-time students. The new system of loans will be available to significantly more part-time students than the existing package of means-tested grants, available only to low-income students and which supports only around one in seven part-time students. Support under the new loans package will not be means-tested, and can be accessed by eligible students studying at an intensity rate of at least 25% of the full-time equivalent course (FTE) each year (currently grants are available only to students studying at 50% FTE). The amount of loan will fully meet the student's actual tuition charge, which is frequently not the case under the current system of grants.

In order to improve financial support to under-represented groups in higher education we are introducing the national scholarship programme, which in particular will support students from low-income backgrounds.

The significant improvement in the package of support for eligible part-time students will provide new opportunities for institutions with large numbers of such students to provide courses that are attractive.

Insolvency

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of amending Section 233 of the Insolvency Act 1986 to include on-sellers of telecommunications services and equipment; [59465]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of amending Section 233 of the Insolvency Act 1986 to prevent suppliers demanding ransom payments on insolvency; [59466]

(3) if he will consider the merits of introducing legislative proposals to amend Section 233 of the Insolvency Act 1986 to include information technology services, computer software services and accounting software services as essential suppliers; and if he will make a statement. [59467]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 13 June 2011]:* We announced in May that we would discuss with interested parties the issue of termination clauses in the context of further consideration of a possible new restructuring moratorium. Officials are currently engaged in that process. Any move to include other essential supplies in section 233 would have implications for the suppliers themselves and would need to be carefully considered in this context.

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Insolvency Service's proposals for regulation of the insolvency community will be subject to the moratorium on new regulation for micro-businesses. [59686]

Mr Davey: The Department is currently reviewing the responses to its consultation on the regulation of insolvency practitioners. The moratorium on new regulation for micro-businesses applies to all new proposals unless a waiver is agreed by Ministers taking account of all the circumstances.

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of after-the-event fee review in insolvency cases on the number of complainants on insolvent estates; and whether he has plans to make arrangements to protect the money realised for creditors from being used to cover unfounded fee review complaints; [59691]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of after-the-event fee review in insolvency cases on the financial incentives of lawyers and other advisers to businesses. [59692]

Mr Davey: The Department is currently reviewing the responses to its consultation on the regulation of insolvency practitioners. Whether to add a fee review mechanism formed a significant part of that consultation, and the question raises an important issue(s) which is being considered as part of the review process.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding from the public purse will be provided to each local enterprise partnership in Yorkshire in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* each of the next two financial years. [58574]

Mr Prisk: Local enterprise partnerships can apply to Government funding to support their development through this Department's capacity and start-up funds.

They can also apply for funding to support specific programmes or projects, for example, the regional growth fund or through the Technology Strategy Board. Partnerships can also access European funding streams or may receive financial support from local authorities.

The Department has made no projections as to how much funding each local enterprise partnership will receive from these various funding sources.

Motor Vehicles: EU Law

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the potential effects on the economy of Plymouth of the removal of the 2002 motor vehicle block exemption regulation. [59119]

Mr Davey: I have no plans to assess the potential effects of the revised regulation.

Motor Vehicles: Retail Trade

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will request motor manufacturers to agree to a Europe-wide franchised code with the franchised car dealership industry. [59048]

Mr Davey: I have no plans to do so, but I would encourage manufacturers and retailers to work positively together to agree the best ways of working together going forward.

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess *(a)* the extent of control of vehicle manufacturers over retailers in a franchised network and *(b)* the effect of such arrangements on (i) competition and (ii) consumers. [59244]

Mr Davey: I have no plans to undertake such an assessment.

Pets: Cremation

Jessica Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to require the provision of information at the point of sale by pet cremation businesses on the processes which they use. [59230]

Mr Davey: The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 (CPRs) ban traders in all sectors from engaging in unfair commercial practices with consumers. Among other matters, the CPRs require traders not to omit or hide material information which the average consumer needs, according to the context, to make an informed choice. Therefore, if the processes used by pet cremation businesses is material to the average pet owner's decision on whether to use the services of such businesses, this information would need to be given to them in good time before they made their purchasing decisions.

Private Sector: Mutual Societies

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage employee shareholding and mutual ownership in the private sector. [59062]

Mr Davey: The Government continue to encourage businesses to consider the benefits of employee ownership models and other mutual models as part of our wider strategy for sustainable economic growth.

The Government intend to improve the guidance available on

www.businesslink.gov.uk

to help businesses and other organisations to make better choices about legal forms and ownership models including employee ownership.

The Government provide four types of tax-advantaged employee share scheme, enabling employers to give employees a stake in the business and help improve its performance.

The Government are also committed to modernising the legislation governing mutuals and ensuring that this is kept up to date so that businesses using these legal forms can remain competitive in the future.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding from the public purse regional development agencies were provided within *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* each of the previous three financial years. [58575]

Mr Prisk: The allocations to the nine English regional development agencies in the four years in question were as follows:

	£ million
2010-11	1,451
2009-10	2,263
2008-09	2,193
2007-08	2,280

Regional Growth Fund: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding each successful applicant to the regional growth fund in Yorkshire and Humber received; and for what purpose such funding was allocated in each case. [58572]

Mr Prisk: A summary of the bids that were successful and have received conditional allocations in Round 1 of the regional growth fund is available from the regional growth fund website:

www.bis.gov.uk/RGF

All those bids are subject to due diligence, which is presently ongoing. Until due diligence is complete and final contract arrangements are agreed, in order to respect commercial confidentiality, no further detail of individual successful bids will be released.

Students: Finance

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of students who lived *(a)* at home and *(b)* away from home took out a loan to fund their undergraduate studies in each of the last five years. [59068]

Mr Willetts: It is estimated that 80% of eligible students domiciled in England take out a maintenance loan and 86% take out a tuition fee loan. It is not possible to accurately split these estimates down for students who lived at home and away from home, as they are calculated from a number of sources with different coverage.

Estimated take-up of maintenance loans by eligible students domiciled in England

Academic year	*Estimated take-up (percentage)*
2004/05	79
2005/06	80
2006/07	80
2007/08	80
2008/09	80

Maintenance loans provide a contribution towards the student's living costs while at university. All eligible full-time students are able to take out a non-means-tested, upfront student loan to finance their tuition costs in full.

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many undergraduate students lived *(a)* at home and *(b)* away from home whilst completing their studies in each of the last five years. [59070]

Mr Willetts: The term-time accommodation of UK-domiciled full-time undergraduate enrolments to UK higher education institutions is shown in the following table for the academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

UK-domiciled full-time undergraduate enrolments by term-time accommodation UK higher education institutions, academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10

Term-time accommodation	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Parental/guardian home	229,670	231,680	248,515	247,625	278,520
Institution maintained property	232,540	232,380	217,240	207,375	209,460
Private-sector halls	n/a	n/a	33,005	39,005	48,440
Own residence (owned or rented)	433,010	452,535	196,570	189,520	194,400
Other rented accommodation[1]	n/a	n/a	240,460	265,870	295,455
Not in attendance at the institution[2]	18,815	18,660	13,490	12,340	13,365
Total known	914,040	935,250	949,280	961,735	1,039,645
Missing[3]	152,845	136,290	137,360	153,130	121,225

[1] 'Other rented accommodation' refers to a more temporary arrangement than 'Own residence', for example where a number of students each rent a room in the same house on a yearly basis.

[2] Covers enrolments not currently in attendance at the institution for reasons such as industrial placement or language year abroad.

[3] Covers enrolments whose term-time accommodation was classified as 'other', 'not known' or 'missing'.

Notes:

1. Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and are rounded up or down to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.
2. The categories 'Private-sector halls' and 'Other rented accommodation' were introduced to the Student Record in 2007/08.
3. Prior to then the majority of enrolments in these categories were classified as 'Institution maintained property' or 'Own residence'.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Summer Time

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he has given to proposing legislation to amend daylight saving time. [58759]

Mr Davey: We are aware that there are a range of views on this subject. Although the Government do not propose to change current summer time arrangements, we continue to listen to representations we receive and consider any evidence presented to us.

Yorkshire Forward: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding from the public purse Yorkshire Forward received in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* each of the previous three financial years. [58573]

Mr Prisk: The allocation to Yorkshire Forward in the four years in question was as follows:

	£ million
2010-11	174
2009-10	321
2008-09	297
2007-08	305

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 15 June 2011

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the *(a)* dates and *(b)* subjects were of his (i) public engagements and meetings and (ii) meetings with ministerial colleagues in (A) January, (B) February, (C) March, (D) April and (E) May 2011. [58030]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The lists of my meetings with outside interest groups are published quarterly on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's website:

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/

Meetings for the quarter ended March 2011 will be published in due course.

Meetings between Ministers, many of which are informal and ad hoc, are not routinely logged.

Information on public engagements could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Gambling

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 349-50W, on gambling, what financial provision his Department has made for research, education and treatment of problem gambling in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; and if he will estimate the likely funding for such activities from industry in each of those years. [58427]

John Penrose: Research, education and treatment into problem gambling are funded by the industry rather than the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Their funding target for 2011-12 is £7 million and the target for 2012-13 has not yet been set. Future funding targets are to be agreed in the autumn when the 2011-12 strategy is presented.

Government Art Collection

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what holdings of the Government Art Collection are on display in locations outside London. [59824]

Mr Vaizey: Details of the Government Art Collection's holdings outside London and within the UK will shortly be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses. Until their recent closure, another 99 works of art were on display in various regional government offices.

Olympic Games 2012: Betting

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the potential effects on the London 2012 Olympic games of sports betting integrity breaches; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of arrangements to prevent such breaches in relation to those games. [58549]

Hugh Robertson: There are already established processes and protocols to identify and manage any risks or threats to sports betting integrity in Great Britain. Our present assessment, based on the experience of previous Olympic events, is that there is a relatively low risk of a major sports betting integrity issue occurring at the London 2012 games. The impact of any such incident could be significant so we do need to ensure that the UK is well prepared to respond to any concerns that arise. Officials from the department are already working with the Gambling Commission, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic games, licensed betting operators and the police to ensure effective preparations are made in advance of the 2012 games. I will be attending the IOC's meeting on betting integrity on 15 June having attended an initial meeting on this issue on 1 March 2011.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the *(a)* timetable and *(b)* schedule is of the forthcoming London 2012 Olympics safety and security testing exercise. [59318]

James Brokenshire: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office along with the Government Olympic Executive, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic games, the Greater London Authority, Department for Transport and other partners are putting in place a programme of exercises to test the effectiveness, resilience and decision-making capability of key games-time structures and processes. The programme is being finalised and an announcement will be made in due course.

Sports: Betting

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what support his Department provides to national sports governing bodies to assist them in countering any threat to sporting integrity from sports betting. [58294]

Hugh Robertson: The sports' governing bodies have the primary responsibility for countering the threat to sporting integrity from sports betting. In line with the recommendations of the independent report by Rick Parry, the Sports Betting Group has been working on a number of measures to tackle sports betting integrity. This includes leading on the code of conduct and providing assistance to those sports governing bodies that require help in relation to the code.

The Gambling Commission's Sports Betting Intelligence Unit (SBIU) works closely with sports governing bodies to share information and intelligence about potentially corrupt betting activity involving sport.

I am a member of the President of the IOC's working group on illegal and irregular betting and that group expects to bring forward proposals by the end of the year.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Human Rights

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications made by asylum seekers under Article 8 of Schedule 1 of the Human Rights Act 1998 were upheld by the courts in each year since 2000. [58467]

Damian Green *[holding answer 9 June 2011]:* The information is not available. The United Kingdom Border Agency's Case Information Database does not record the specific reasons why an appeal is allowed and the requested information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost through the examination of a large number of individual case files.

A sample of 401 allowed asylum appeal determinations from across the UK for the period October to December 2010 was recently analysed and cross referenced with computer records. Of the 401, the Immigration Judge presiding over the case upheld the Article 8 claim made by asylum seekers in 33 cases (8.2%).

Figures published in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly statistical summary Q1 2011 show that there were 3,040 asylum appeals determined in the period October to December 2010 of which 805 (26%) were allowed.

Community Policing

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken in response to the report by Baroness Newlove on Clear Vision for Safe and Active Communities published by her Department. [58386]

James Brokenshire: The Government are considering the recommendations made by Baroness Newlove and my Department will continue to work closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in helping the Government to take forward the ideas and suggestions in her report that relate to crime reduction and community safety. Baroness Newlove will continue her work as Government champion for active, safer communities within DCLG.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 240W, on departmental public expenditure, which stakeholders have made representations on the spending review settlement. [59623]

Damian Green: This information is not held centrally. Representations would have been received across the Home Office and its agencies on particular elements of the spending review settlement, and a full list of these and the stakeholders concerned could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. We did carry out a specific consultation on the provisional police settlement, and received representations from Police Authority Chairs and Treasurers, Chief Constables, MPs and the Association of Police Authorities.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what strategic framework her Department has developed for the delivery of its core functions during the comprehensive spending review period. [59726]

Damian Green: The strategic direction and framework of the Home Office during the spending review period is set by the Home Office Business Plan which is published on the Home Office website. The delivery of the Home Office Business Plan is supported internally through Agency, Group and Directorate business plans which are reviewed on a regular basis.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will instruct the UK Border Agency to review the effects of recent changes to the English language requirements for students under tier 4 of the points-based system. [59821]

Damian Green: The new, tighter requirements for English language for tier 4 students are expected to help eliminate abuse of the system by ensuring that only genuine students who are able to complete the course can come to the UK. The impact of the changes implemented on 21 April this year will be monitored and reviewed along with the other changes made following the tier 4 review.

Motor Vehicles: Theft

Ms Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cars were stolen by the car keys first being stolen by robbery or burglary in each police force area in 2009-10; and how many recorded offences there were of domestic burglaries and robberies in which a vehicle was taken in each police force area in 2009-10. [58555]

James Brokenshire: The existing police recorded crime offences contain the offence classifications of 'burglary in a dwelling' and 'robbery of business or personal property' but the items stolen in these offences cannot be separately identified.

The Home Office commenced from April 2007 a separate ad hoc data collection on the number of robberies and domestic burglaries in which a vehicle is taken, as recorded by the police in England and Wales. This collection was made voluntary from April 2009 and only 20 of the 44 police forces in England and Wales provided data in 2009-10, which are provided in the table.

To reduce burden on the police, a decision was made to cease this collection from April 2011.

Offences recorded by the police, by police force area in England and Wales, in 2009-10[1]

PFA	*Robberies in which a vehicle is taken*	*Domestic burglaries in which a vehicle is taken*
Avon and Somerset	n/a	n/a
Bedfordshire	29	178
British Transport Police	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire	n/a	n/a
Cheshire	n/a	n/a
Cleveland	6	133
Cumbria	0	20
Derbyshire	n/a	n/a
Devon and Cornwall	5	71
Dorset	0	39
Durham	n/a	n/a
Dyfed-Powys	0	7
Essex	n/a	n/a
Gloucestershire	n/a	n/a
Greater Manchester	n/a	n/a
Gwent	n/a	n/a
Hampshire	11	193
Hertfordshire	13	436
Humberside	n/a	n/a
Kent	23	298
Lancashire	n/a	n/a
Leicestershire	30	298
Lincolnshire	n/a	n/a
London, City of	0	0
Merseyside	n/a	n/a
Metropolitan Police	936	3,430
Norfolk	5	21
North Wales	1	89
North Yorkshire	2	336
Northamptonshire	n/a	n/a
Northumbria	15	321
Nottinghamshire	42	530
South Wales	n/a	n/a
South Yorkshire	n/a	n/a
Staffordshire	n/a	n/a
Suffolk	1	19
Surrey	7	183
Sussex	n/a	n/a
Thames Valley	n/a	n/a
Warwickshire	n/a	n/a
West Mercia	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	103	2,152
Wiltshire	n/a	n/a
Total	1,229	8,754

n/a = No data available

[1] Data were received from 20 of the 44 police forces in England and Wales after this specific data collection was made voluntary by the Home Office as from April 2009.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare: Rabbits

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps her Department has taken to improve the welfare of factory-farmed rabbits; and if she will make a statement. [59567]

Mr Paice: The welfare of farmed rabbits is protected by the general provisions in the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007, which have a specific schedule relating to rabbit welfare. Additionally, DEFRA has a welfare code for rabbits which provides good husbandry advice and which producers are required by law to have access to and be familiar with. Failure to comply with this code may be relied upon in prosecution cases.

Flooding: Hertfordshire

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to alleviate the risk of flooding along the River Colne in Hertfordshire. [59191]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency has calculated that the costs of constructing flood walls adjacent to the River Colne at Colney Heath would be greater than the benefit of doing so. The Environment Agency is planning to meet St Albans district council and Hertfordshire county council to consider other options for managing flood risk in the area.

Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme beyond 2013. [58198]

Richard Benyon: The Waste Review published on 14 June stated that the Government are planning to end LATS after the 2012-13 scheme year.

Natural Gas: Exploration

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with representatives of *(a)* Cuadrilla Resources and *(b)* the shale gas drilling industry on the future of shale gas exploration in the UK following the recent earth tremors in the Blackpool area. [59253]

Richard Benyon: Neither I nor the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has had any discussions with representatives of Cuadrilla Resources or the shale gas drilling industry on the future of shale gas exploration following the recent minor seismic activity. However, Environment Officers from the Environment Agency have had informal discussions with Cuadrilla regarding seismic activity during recent site visits.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Equalities Act 2010

Lyn Brown: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what plans she has to implement section 78 of the Equalities Act 2010. [58729]

Mrs May: The Government are committed to working with business to develop a voluntary approach to gender pay reporting in the private and voluntary sector. While we work with business and others to ensure this approach is successful, we will not commence, amend or repeal section 78 of the Equality Act 2010.

Pay: Equal Opportunities

Lyn Brown: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what assessment she has made of the effects of higher levels of private sector employment on the gender pay gap. [58730]

Mrs May: The causes of the pay gap are varied and include work histories, skills levels, the industries and occupations in which women and men work, and labour market conditions. The complex interaction between these factors means it is not possible to accurately forecast changes to the pay gap.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations: Finance

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department provided to each local authority for community cohesion projects in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* each of the last three financial years. [59346][1]

Andrew Stunell: Between 2008-09 and 2010-11 funding for cohesion projects was provided to local authorities via unringfenced Area Based Grant. In 2011-12, general unringfenced funding of £190.540 million was allocated to local authorities in England through Local Services Support Grant with the freedom to use it to meet locally identified priorities, including community cohesion.

The following table shows funding allocation for cohesion projects for each local authority from 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Communities and Local Government Area Based Grant: Cohesion

Local authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Amber Valley Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Arun District Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Ashfield District Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Ashford Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Barking and Dagenham London Borough	116,471	213,529	252,353
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Basildon District Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Bassetlaw District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Berwick-upon-Tweed	26,471	0	0
Bexley London Borough	26,471	48,529	57,353
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Blackpool Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Bolsover District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Boston Borough Council	116,471	213,529	252,353
Bournemouth Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Breckland District Council	95,294	174,706	206,471
Burnley Borough Council	116,471	213,529	252,353
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Carlisle City Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Cherwell District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Cheshire East UA	0	48,529	57,353
Cheshire West and Chester UA	0	48,529	57,353
Chester-le-Street	26,471	0	0
Corby Borough Council	95,294	174,706	206,471
Craven District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Crawley Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Croydon London Borough	26,471	48,529	57,353
Crewe and Nantwich	26,471	0	26,471
Dartford Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Derwentside	49,412	0	0
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Dover District Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Durham County UA	0	320,293	378,529
Ealing London Borough	26,471	48,529	57,353
Easington	49,412	0	0
East Staffordshire Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Ellesmere Port and Neston	26,471	0	0
Erewash Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Fenland District Council	116,471	213,529	252,353
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Gosport Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Gravesham Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	116,471	213,529	252,353
Greenwich London Borough	26,471	48,529	57,353
Halton Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353

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[1] *[Official Report, 29 June 2011, Vol. 530, c. 5MC.]*

Communities and Local Government Area Based Grant: Cohesion

Local authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough	26,471	48,529	57,353
Harlow District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Hartlepool Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Hastings Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Havant Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Havering London Borough	49,412	90,588	107,059
County of Herefordshire District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Hertsmere Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Hillingdon London Borough	49,412	90,588	107,059
Hounslow London Borough	26,471	48,529	57,353
Huntingdonshire District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Hyndburn Borough Council	95,294	174,706	206,471
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Kingston Upon Hull City Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough	0	0	0
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Lancaster City Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Lincoln City Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Liverpool City Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Luton Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Mansfield District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Medway Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Mendip District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Middlesbrough Borough	26,471	48,529	57,353
Newcastle upon Tyne Metropolitan District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Newham London Borough	72,353	132,647	156,765
North East Lincolnshire Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
North Lincolnshire Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
North Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Northampton Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Northumberland County UA	0	139,117	164,412
Nottingham City Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	116,471	213,529	252,353
Oswestry	26,471	0	0
Pendle Borough Council	116,471	213,529	252,353
Peterborough City Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Plymouth City Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Portsmouth City Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Redbridge London Borough	49,412	90,588	107,059
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Redditch Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Rossendale Borough Council	95,294	174,706	206,471
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	95,294	174,706	206,471
Rushmoor Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Salford Metropolitan District Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Scarborough Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Sedgefield	49,412	0	0
Sedgemoor District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Selby District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Sheffield City Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Shropshire County UA	26,471	97,058	114,706
Slough Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
South Holland District Council	95,294	174,706	206,471
South Kesteven District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
South Somerset District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Southampton City Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	95,294	174,706	206,471
Sunderland City Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Swale Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Tamworth Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Telford and Wrekin Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Tendring District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Thanet District Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Thurrock Council	116,471	213,529	252,353
Torbay Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353

Communities and Local Government Area Based Grant: Cohesion

Local authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Tower Hamlets London Borough	49,412	90,588	107,059
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Waltham Forest London Borough	26,471	48,529	57,353
Wansbeck.	49,412	0	0
Watford Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Waveney District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Weymouth and Portland Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Wiltshire County UA	26,471	48,529	57,353
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Woking Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Worthing Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Wycombe District Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Wyre Forest District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Total	6,000,040	10,999,960	13,000,016

Derelict Land: Planning Permission

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers Natural England has to impose planning conditions on brownfield sites; and if he will make a statement. [59348]

Robert Neill: Natural England has no powers to impose conditions on planning consents as it does not determine planning applications. It does, however, have an important advisory role within the planning system and is a statutory consultee for development plans, environmental impact assessments, strategic environmental assessment and planning applications that are likely to impact upon its particular interests. In this capacity it may, where appropriate, seek to mitigate impacts on, or to enhance, the natural environment through the use of planning conditions.

EU Grants and Loans: North East England

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding from the European regional development fund was allocated to projects in the North East in the latest period for which figures are available. [59522]

Robert Neill: The north-east received £318 million of the European regional development fund under the competitiveness strand.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the European Regional Development Fund was allocated to projects in the North East in the latest period for which figures are available. [59523]

Robert Neill: The total allocation to the north-east as a proportion of the total European Regional Development Fund for the England Competitiveness strand is 13%.

The total allocation to the north-east as a proportion of the European Regional Development Fund Competitiveness and Convergence as a whole is 11%.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the European Regional Development Fund allocated to the North East of England *(a)* has been allocated and *(b)* he expects to have been allocated by the end of the current funding round. [59527]

Robert Neill: 65% of the North East European Regional Development Fund allocation has been allocated to date.

It is expected that 100% of the European Regional Development Fund allocated to the North East will be allocated by the end of the current funding period in 2013.

Fire Services

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many of the principal fire officers of the Cambridgeshire fire and rescue service have their main residence in Cambridgeshire; [59811]

(2) how much was spent on new equipment for Manea fire station under each category of cost in each of the last three years; [59837]

(3) on what date a firefighter was last recruited to Manea fire station; [59838]

(4) how much Cambridgeshire fire and rescue service has spent on legal fees for each type of work undertaken in each of the last three years; and which legal firms were employed in each such case; [59839]

(5) how many compromise agreements have been signed by Cambridgeshire fire and rescue service in each of the last three years; what the monetary value was of each such agreement; and how many included a confidentiality clause; [59840]

(6) for how many hours Manea fire station was unable to respond to calls or off the run due to a lack of *(a)* personnel and *(b)* skills in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [59841]

Robert Neill: This information is not held centrally.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme .

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive scheme. [59320]

Robert Neill: The Government agrees with the conclusions of Sir Michael Lyons that the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive scheme was complex, unpredictable and not transparent. Instead, the Local

Government Resource Review is considering proposals to allow local authorities to keep at least a proportion of their business rates. Such an approach could help set free many local councils from dependency on central Government funding and provide incentives, through the business rates system, for them to promote economic growth.

The Local Authority Business Growth Incentive scheme ran for three years (2005-06 -2007-08), and then there was a break for a year, before it was established for a further two year period (2009-10 – 2010-11), although the second year payments were cancelled. In between the two schemes, the previous administration ran two consultations (October 2007 and August 2008) on how it might be reformed.

Non-domestic Rates

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to introduce a Business Increase Bonus scheme. [59319]

Robert Neill: The White Paper—"Local growth: realising every place's potential"—confirmed that the Government would consider how to deliver better growth incentives in the business rates system, and sought views on the merits of a broader business rates retention model.

The Local Government Resource Review is now considering options to allow local authorities to keep at least a proportion of their business rates and provide direct financial incentives for local authorities to promote economic growth. It will deliver proposals by July 2011.

Planning

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the *(a)* construction and *(b)* development industry of his policies on localism. [58344]

Andrew Stunell: There has been a sustained shortfall in housing development; the previous Government's model of top-down housing targets that imposed development on local authorities and local communities did not deliver the housing this country needs.

This Government are committed to seeing a major upswing in housing to meet Britain's housing need and seeing more homes that people want in the places that people want them. We have put in place a package of reforms to get the industry moving again, including localist policies—such as transferring power from central Government to councils and local people, and replacing top down targets with fiscal incentives for local authorities to promote development—and other actions such as reductions in regulation on house-builders, and assistance to first time buyers.

By promoting housing growth, these policies will have a positive impact upon the construction and development industry.

I would note that house-building starts in England are up 22% in 2010-11, compared to 2009-10 (DCLG, House building: March Quarter 2011 England, 19 May 2011) and the value of new housing construction has risen by 23% (in constant price terms) over the same period (ONS, Ouput in the construction Industry, Q1 2011,13 May 2011).

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to ensure that Neighbourhood Planning Front Runners have access to adequate professional expertise in the property sector. [59341]

Robert Neill: The Department has made available grants of £20,000 to each neighbourhood planning front runner. These grants may be spent in any way that the recipient council considers appropriate in connection with delivering its project and this may include procuring support from the property profession. In addition, the Department will shortly award grants totalling £3.2 million to four organisations to enable them to provide advice, guidance and other support to community groups and individuals wishing to engage with the planning system. That may include advice, guidance and other support derived from the property sector.

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he plans to provide to communities wishing to develop neighbourhood plans. [59407]

Robert Neill: We are working with the neighbourhood planning front runners and representative organisations on guidance that will help communities and local authorities with neighbourhood planning.

Regional Growth Fund

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many successful regional growth fund bids are eligible for match funding from the European regional development fund in the most recently announced funding round. [59521]

Robert Neill: One successful bid under round one of the regional growth fund indicated in the application that it had also bid for European regional development fund support. Other successful regional growth fund bids may also have been eligible for ERDF but did not indicate in the bid that they were also applying for ERDF support.

Social Rented Housing: Housing Occupancy

Mrs Mensch: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of social homes which are under-occupied in *(a)* each local authority area, *(b)* each region and *(c)* England. [59354]

Grant Shapps: It is estimated that 423,000 households were under-occupied in the social rented sector in England in 2009-10. This estimate is a three year average based on data from the Survey of English Housing (2007-08) and the English Housing Survey (2008-09 and 2009-10). Households are said to be under-occupied if they have at least two bedrooms more than they need as measured by the bedroom standard.

Regional estimates for 2009-10 are due to be published on 5 July 2011 in the English Housing Survey Household Report 2009-10.

It is not possible to provide estimates at local authority level as sample sizes are too small.

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) with reference to his Department's consultation on planning for Traveller sites, what plans he has to allow local authorities to establish pitch and plot allocation targets lower than those in local and regional plans; [59426]

(2) with reference to his Department's consultation on planning for Traveller sites, whether a risk assessment has been undertaken of the legal implications for local authorities of introducing new pitch and plot allocation targets lower than those in local and regional plans. [59427]

Robert Neill: The Government carried out an impact assessment to look at the likely costs and benefits of the policy, including those on local authorities. The Government do not anticipate that their new policy will result in any new burdens on local authorities.

The Government's proposed policy asks local authorities to use a robust evidence base of local need to support their planning approach for traveller sites. The targets local authorities set will be tested independently on a case-by-case basis through consultation and examination in public of local plans. Those local authorities who have targets imposed on them by regional plans may, therefore, reduce their target if they have a robust evidence base to support this approach.

The Localism Bill also proposes to abolish regional strategies and their associated top-down targets.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Police

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people of *(a)* Pashtun, *(b)* Tajik, *(c)* Hazaras and *(d)* Uzbek ethnicity there are in the Afghanistan National Security Force; what the ethnic composition is of (i) that force and (ii) the national population; and what steps he is taking to promote a nationally-representative Afghanistan National Security Force. [59715]

Alistair Burt: The following two tables illustrate the ethnic composition of the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police, alongside the approximate ethnic composition of Afghanistan's population.

As I outlined in my response to the right hon. Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire South (Mr Alexander) on 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 197W, the ethnic composition of the Afghan National Security Forces is broadly consistent with the Afghan population demographic, including in terms of Pashtun personnel. However, southern Pashtuns are under-represented in the army and the Afghan Ministry of Defence has—with the support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation training mission—developed a recruitment campaign intended to address this. The situation with regard to the police is similar, but with Tajiks statistically over-represented.

Afghan National Army, March 2011

		Percentage
Ethnicity	*Afghanistan*	*Afghan National Army*
Pashtun	42	42
Tajik	27	34
Hazara	9	12
Uzbek	9	8
Other	13	5

Afghan National Police, May 2011

		Percentage
Ethnicity	*Afghanistan*	*Afghan National Army*
Pashtun	42	43
Tajik	27	42
Hazara	9	5
Uzbek	9	5
Other	13	5

Brazil: Mining

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Brazilian Government for the *(a)* removal of illegal miners from the Yanomami territory and *(b)* prohibition of any form of mining on Yanomami land. [58904]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We regularly discuss human rights issues, including indigenous rights, with the Brazilian Government. I did so during my visit to Brazil last month.

Under the Brazilian constitution indigenous people have clear rights, including the protection of their cultural heritage and rights to occupy and use their traditional lands. The Brazilian Government's National Foundation for Indians (FUNAI) monitors and supports indigenous people's interests, but recognises that further work needs to be done to protect indigenous rights and ensure effective implementation of these legal frameworks. We will continue to support the Brazilian Government's own efforts in this area, where appropriate.

Children: Human Rights

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many representations his Department has received on the application of human rights legislation to British children in EU member states *(a)* between January 2005 and April 2010 and *(b)* since May 2010. [59154]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We do not hold the information the hon. Gentleman requests in this format as we do not keep a central record. The information would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

Crown Relocations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 584W, on Crown Relocations, how many other bids there were for the contract awarded to Crown Relocations his Department received. [58760]

Mr Lidington: The contract procurement was undertaken in 2004 following the legislated procurement process at that time. Five companies were invited to tender.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs further to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 584W, on Crown Relocations, on what date the contract with Crown Relocations *(a)* commenced and *(b)* expires; how many other companies bid for the contract; and how many items have been recorded as lost in transit by Crown Relocations since the commencement of the contract. [59243]

Mr Lidington: The contract with Crown Relocations commenced on 30 April 2004. At that time, five companies were invited to tender. An extension is in the process of being signed which will take the contract up to 30 April 2012. This will allow time for the current reprocurement activity to be completed.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold information on items lost in transit. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Serco

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many contracts his Department holds with Serco; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58665]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has no contracts with Serco within the UK.

As budgets in the FCO are devolved to over 260 posts overseas and details of their contracts are not held centrally, the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

CABINET OFFICE

Efficiency Savings

9. **Jake Berry:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the efficiency savings achieved in 2011 to date. [59579]

Mr Maude: The controls we put in place in May last year have yielded savings of well over £3 billion in the short financial year that ended in March.

For example, we have:

Reduced spend on marketing and advertising by over 80%

Saved £400 million through stopping low value projects

Reduced our on-going property costs by over £90 million

Generated £800 million of savings by renegotiating contracts with our biggest suppliers

Saved over £850 million by new controls on hiring consultants

These savings will enable Departments to protect front line service delivery and protect public sector jobs.

Voluntary Sector

10. **Rehman Chishti:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to reduce the burden of regulation on the voluntary sector. [59580]

Mr Hurd: We are determined to reduce the red tape that prevents people from acting to improve their communities.

I invited Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts to investigate the question 'what stops us all giving more time and money to charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises'. Last month his taskforce made recommendations such as making it easier to be a volunteer driver. We are now working across Government to implement as many of the recommendations as possible.

The Government have also set up a broader Red Tape Challenge.

12. **Andrea Leadsom:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to reduce the burden of regulation on the voluntary sector. [59582]

Mr Hurd: We are determined to reduce the red tape that prevents people from acting to improve their communities.

I invited Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts to investigate the question 'what stops us all giving more time and money to charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises'. Last month his taskforce made recommendations such as making it easier to be a volunteer driver. We are now working across Government to implement as many of the recommendations as possible.

The Government have also set up a broader Red Tape Challenge.

Charities: Mental Health

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will estimate the proportion of income of charities in England that is received by mental health charities. [59629]

Mr Hurd: Data from the Civil Society Almanac, produced by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), show that UK charities received a total of £35.5 billion in income in 2007-08. Of this income, £3.4 billion was received by charities working in the health sector in the UK. Figures are not available from this source to determine the proportion of income for charities in England that is received by mental health charities.

Company Accounts

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many small businesses which would not otherwise produce quarterly accounts were asked to do so by the Office for National Statistics in the last

12 months; and what estimate he has made of the cost to those small businesses of preparing such reports. [59983]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many small businesses which would not otherwise produce quarterly accounts were asked to do so by the Office for National Statistics in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost to those small businesses of preparing such reports (59983).

ONS does not require businesses to produce quarterly accounts. Our sample surveys require businesses to provide estimates of economic transactions. These do not require the production of quarterly accounts.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many invoices his Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier 1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance; [55873]

(2) how many invoices the Prime Minister's Office received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier 1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55860]

Mr Maude: For these purposes the Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The information requested for Cabinet Office regarding the number of invoices received in respect of goods and services supplied for tier 1 suppliers between the time periods specified is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information is available on the number of invoices received between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011, and the number not paid within the period as specified in line with Government policy.

The following table shows the breakdown of payments for the period requested

	Number	*Percentage*
Total payments made	17,756	—
Payments made within 30 days	17,660	99.46
Payments made within 10 days	16,998	95.73
Payments made within 5 days	13,761	77.50

The Cabinet Office does not have any contracts to which the Government's Fair Payment Guidance refers. Therefore no invoices have been received for these goods and services.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) under what budget headings and for what purposes the expenditure associated with transaction number *(a)* 3000014029, *(b)* 3000014121, *(c)* 3000014389 and *(d)* 3000014417 for January 2011 published on the Transparency website, was spent; [59706]

(2) under what budget headings and for what purposes the expenditure associated with transaction number *(a)* 3000014491, *(b)* 3000014634, *(c)* 3000014670, *(d)* 3000014777 and *(e)* 3000014951 for February 2011 published on the Transparency website, was spent; [59707]

(3) under what budget headings and for what purposes the expenditure associated with transaction number *(a)* 3000015192, *(b)* 3000015588, *(c)* 3000015699 and *(d)* 3000015859 for March 2011 published on the Transparency website was spent; [59708]

(4) how much was spent under each cost category in respect of transaction numbers *(a)* 3000013467, *(b)* 3000013581, *(c)* 300013749, *(d)* 3000013791 and *(e)* 3000013864 in December 2010 posted on the Transparency website and attributable to the Cabinet Office Central Department; [59755]

(5) how much was spent under each cost category in respect of transaction numbers *(a)* 3000012982, *(b)* 3000013043, *(c)* 300013058, *(d)* 3000013193, *(e)* 3000013225, *(f)* 3000013477 and *(g)* 3000013398 in November 2010 posted on the Transparency website and attributable to the Cabinet Office Central Department. [59756]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 14 June 2011]:* Details of how much was spent under each cost category and what the budget headings were can be found under the 'expense type' column of the CSV files for each month which can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cabinet-office-spend-data

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Attorney-General pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 376-7W, on trade unions, when he expects information to become available on *(a)* the number of staff of the Crown Prosecution Service entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union activities, *(b)* the number of such staff paid more than £25,900 annually and *(c)* the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties in 2010-11. [59779]

The Solicitor-General: Data for the financial year April 2010-11 are currently being collected and the overall figures should be finalised within the next four weeks. I will write to my hon. Friend with the updated figures once they are available. The position for 2010-11 is however unlikely to have changed significantly from that of the previous year.

TREASURY

Arch Cru

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of initiating an investigation into the Financial Services Authority's role in relation to Arch Cru funds. [59611]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Services Authority is currently investigating the issues surrounding the suspension and winding up of the Arch Cru funds. It would not be appropriate for the Government to comment on an ongoing investigation by the independent regulator.

Banks: Pay

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings he has had with his EU counterparts to discuss disclosure by banks of the number of employees paid salary and bonuses of more than £1 million per year. [59379]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case, with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Construction Industry Scheme

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were employed in the HM Revenue and Customs Construction Industry scheme enforcement unit in each year from 2005 to 2010. [52903]

Mr Gauke: Details of the number of staff employed in HM Revenue and Customs Construction Industry Teams are held only from April 2008.

	Full-time equivalent
2008-09	526.19
2009-10	474.67

In May 2010 the members of the Construction Industry Teams were integrated into mainstream teams in local compliance where they continue to carry out work on CIS enforcement.

Disadvantaged: Financial Services

Mr Buckland: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what plans he has for future provision of money advice in respect of *(a)* coping with unemployment and *(b)* managing the transition back into work using benefits; [59661]

(2) what plans he has for future provision of money advice for *(a)* consumers and *(b)* small businesses; [59663]

(3) what plans he has for future provision of money advice in respect of *(a)* managing mortgage arrears and *(b)* preventing repossessions. [59662]

Mr Hoban: The Money Advice Service is an independent body, established in the Financial Services Act 2010 to promote understanding of the financial system and raise levels of financial capability across the UK. It offers free and impartial financial information and advice to members of the public nationally online, by telephone, and face-to-face.

Its services cover the full spectrum of financial issues and include help and advice at key life stages, for example, for those starting work or facing redundancy. The Money Advice Service also directs individuals to more specialist help and advice where appropriate. For example, those in mortgage arrears who may risk losing their home may be directed to crisis debt advice.

The Money Advice Service is aimed at consumers rather than businesses. Business Link is the support service in England which provides businesses with impartial information and advice, including on finances, to start and develop their business. It is available online and by telephone. The devolved Administrations have equivalent support services to Business Link, which in some cases, also includes additional face to face support. Under the aegis of the British Bankers' Association Business Finance Taskforce, the major UK banks have also committed to creating a website for businesses in which they can get impartial information about how to secure finance and the best options for their business. They are also developing a business mentoring scheme which will be rolled out in phases across the country this year.

Financial Markets

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to monitor the international derivatives market. [59414]

Mr Hoban: The UK Government are actively supporting the efforts to reduce systemic risk in derivatives through the measures announced in the European Markets Infrastructure Regulation. This includes supporting the obligation to require all derivative transactions to be reported to trade repositories.

Within the UK the Bank of England's interim Financial Policy Committee also has a monitoring function as part of its systemic remit to protect and enhance the UK financial system.

Fuels: Prices

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the Energy Company Obligation on domestic fuel bills. [58193]

Gregory Barker: I have been asked to reply.

An assessment of this issue will be included in the impact assessment which will be published in the autumn, alongside our consultation on the detailed design of the ECO policy.

The effect ECO has on fuel bills will ultimately depend on the outcomes we require energy companies to deliver and how they choose to absorb or pass on costs.

We expect competitive pressure between the energy companies to help keep costs down.

Income Tax

Dr Huppert: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what amount of taxable income comprised personal earnings above £150,000 in each month of each of the last 10 tax years; [59626]

(2) how much was collected in income tax on earnings above £150,000 *(a)* through pay as you earn, *(b)* through self-assessment and *(c)* overall in each month in each of the last 10 tax years. [59627]

Mr Gauke: The estimated amount of total income excluding savings and dividends above £150,000, after deductions and allowances, and the estimated income tax liability on this income, split between taxpayers on self assessment and pay as you earn only, is shown in the following table. The third column shows estimated total tax paid through SA and PAYE for taxpayers who are on SA and the fourth column shows estimated tax paid through PAYE for taxpayers who are on PAYE only.

£ million

	Income (excluding savings and dividends)[1]	*Income tax from taxpayers on self assessment*	*Income tax from taxpayers on pay as you earn only*
2001-02	20,100	7,800	240
2002-03	18,700	7,300	200
2003-04	18,900	7,500	60
2004-05	24.400	9,500	220
2005-06	31,900	12,600	170
2006-07	38,800	15,200	270
2007-08	46,600	18,100	520
Projected estimates based on 2007-08 data:			
2008-09[1]	48,100	18,700	530
2009-10[1]	48,500	18,800	550
2010-11	46,600	22,600	660

[1] After deductions and allowances (including allowances as income tax reductions, e.g. married couples allowance).

The estimates for 2000-01 to 2007-08 are based on the Survey of personal incomes (SPI). For 2008-09 onwards tax return data is not available for analysis. Estimates in the table are based on the 2007-08 SPI using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook,

The information is not available on a monthly basis.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Secretary to the Treasury plans to respond to the letters of 1 March 2011 and 21 April 2011 from the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed on the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and FSA fees. [59534]

Mr Hoban: I wrote to all right hon. and hon. Members on 1 March 2011 to set out the Government's overall position on the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. This letter was in response to any outstanding correspondence that hon. Members may have raised.

National Insurance Contributions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate additional national insurance payments which would have been due in *(a)* employee and *(b)* employer contributions if the pensions contracting-out regime had not been in place in each year since 1990. [57274]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 24 May 2011]:* Estimates of the additional national insurance contributions for 2000-01 to 2009-10 that would have been due if contracting-out from the state second pension had not been available are shown in the following table.

Estimates for previous years are not available.

£ million

	Employee contributions	*Employer contributions*	*Total*
2000-01	3,100	6,000	9,100
2001-02	3,200	6,200	9,400
2002-03	3,200	7,700	10,900
2003-04	3,100	7,500	10,600
2004-05	2,800	6,800	9,600
2005-06	2,800	6,600	9,400
2006-07	2,700	6,300	9,000
2007-08	2,700	6,900	9,600
2008-09	2,800	7,100	9,900
2009-10	2,700	6,900	9,600

Non-domestic Rates: Appeals

Mrs Mensch: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many appeals have been received by the Valuation Office Agency against national non-domestic rates valuations *(a)* in each of the last five years for which figures are available and *(b)* in 2011-12 to date; [59334]

(2) how many appeals against national non-domestic rate valuations were received by the Valuation Office Agency in relation to 2010 revaluations of non-domestic property in each local authority area in *(a)* each of the last three years and *(b)* 2011-12 to date; [59360]

(3) how many appeals against national non-domestic rate valuations were received by the Valuation Office Agency *(a)* in relation to the 2005 rating and *(b)* in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [59361]

Mr Gauke: The following table details the number of proposals (appeals) to alter the rating list received by the Valuation Office Agency in relation to the 2000, 2005 and 2010 England and Wales rating lists, for each of the previous five financial years.

Proposals received with respect to compiled rating lists

Financial year	*2000*[1]	*2005*[2]	*2010*[3]	*Total*
2006-07	1,950	134,520	0	136,470
2007-08	0	104,430	0	104,430
2008-09	0	133,370	0	133,370
2009-10	0	230,130	0	230,130
2010-11	0	50,840	230,090	280,930
2011-12[4]	0	1,080	12,540	13,620

[1] Proposals to amend the 2.000 list could potentially be made up to six months after the list was closed on 1 April 2006.

[2] Similarly proposals to amend the 2005 list can be potentially made until 1 October 2011.

[3] The2010 rating list came into operation on the 1 April 2010 therefore there are no proposals with respect to this list for earlier financial years

[4] 1 April 2011 to 30 April 2011

Latest figures for the number of proposals (appeals) received by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) in relation to the 2010 local rating list by local authority for the 2010-11 financial year were published on 12 May 2011 in Table 3.2 of the "Local Rating List: Challenges" publication on the VOA website in the following location:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/May-2011-local-rating/Challenges/Table%203.2.xls

The 2010 rating list came into operation on the 1 April 2010 therefore there are no proposals (appeals) with respect to this list for earlier financial years. The number of Proposals (appeals) received by the VOA in relation to the 2010 rating list in 2011-12 financial year to date (30 April 2011) broken down by local authority has been placed in the Library of the House.

Overseas Companies: Payments

Mrs Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to require UK-based oil, mining and gas companies to make annual reports on payments made to foreign Governments in exchange for access to natural resources; and if he will make a statement. [59347]

Mr Gauke: As the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), made clear following the G20 Finance Ministers' meeting in February 2011, the Government believe that development of new rules to require oil, gas and mining companies to report the payments they make to Governments should take place at the international level.

The Government have committed to arguing for a European agreement that matches the new standards set in the US, and the UK will be engaging with EU partners on this issue.

Personal Taxation

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 366W, on personal taxation, if he will estimate the difference in the personal taxation payable by an individual in each tax band attributable to indexation of personal tax allowance by *(a)* the consumer price index and *(b)* the retail prices index in each year from 2012-13 to 2015-16. [51295]

Mr Gauke: Budget 2011 announced that the personal allowance for those aged under 65 would increase by £630 from April 2012, taking it from £7,475 in 2011-12 to £8,105 in 2012-13. The Government will further increase the personal allowance to £10,000, making real term steps each year towards this as a longer term policy objectives.

The following table shows hypothetical estimates of the maximum increase in income tax liability attributable to indexation of the personal allowance for those aged under 65 by CPI rather than RPI. Separate estimates are provided for basic rate, higher rate and additional rate taxpayers. This theoretical calculation assumes no increases above indexation (RPI and CPI) of the personal allowance from 2012-13. The estimates therefore do not consider the Budget 2011 announcement that the personal allowance will increase by £630 in 2012-13. Calculations assume income refers to employment income only.

	Marginal tax rate		
	Basic rate	*Higher rate*	*Additional rate*[1]
2012-13	£12	£0[1]-£24	£0
2013-14	£32	£0[1]£64	£0
2014-15	£56	£0[1]-£112	£0
2015-16	£84	£0[1]-£168	£0

[1] The personal allowance is reduced by £1 for every £2 of income above £100,000. Therefore additional rate and some higher rate taxpayers will have a personal allowance of zero.

These estimates are based on the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 forecast assumptions for RPI and CPI.

Social Security Benefits: Expenditure

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the potential effect of the upward revision in claimant count unemployment shown on table 4.15 of the Office for Budget Responsibility's Economic and Fiscal Outlook on social security benefit spending. [51560]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

The figures are in the following table.

Effect of the change in the claimant count unemployment assumption between November 2010 and March 2011

	£ billion (nominal terms)
2010-11	0.0
2011-12	0.3
2012-13	0.5
2013-14	0.5
2014-15	0.4
2015-16	0.2

These figures are published in table 4.18 of the Office for Budget Responsibility's Economic and Fiscal Outlook.

Tax Avoidance: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was raised as a result of steps taken by HM Revenue and Customs in relation to tax avoidance in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [59336]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 15 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 263W.

Information on tax revenue in the UK is not collected by reference to its geographical source. Consequently it is not possible to allocate tax revenue to particular regions of the UK.

Taxation: Domicile

Mr Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of non-domiciled UK taxpayers who will pay the annual levy in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [51750][1]

(2) what estimate he has made of the change in the number of non-resident taxpayers between 2009 and 2010. [51762]

Mr Gauke: There is currently a £30,000 annual charge for non-domiciled individuals who have been resident for at least seven of the past nine years and wish to retain access to the remittance basis of taxation. In Budget 2011, the Government announced that it would

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1.*[Official Report, 4 July 2011, Vol. 530, c. 11MC]* consult on raising this charge to £50,000 for non-domiciled individuals who have been resident for at least 12 years with a view to implementing this change from the 2012-13 tax year. The number of individuals estimated to pay the annual charges of £30,000 and £50,000 are:

Estimated number of individuals paying the annual £30,000 or £50,000 charge

Rounded	*2011-12*	*2012-13*
£30,000	7,400	5,900
£50,000	0	3,700
Total	7,400	9,600

Those individuals liable to the charge but who choose not to pay it will instead be liable to UK taxation on their worldwide income and gains.

The Government have no estimates for the change in the number of non-resident taxpayers between 2009 and 2010. Information relating to the tax year 2010-11, ending in April 2011, is not yet available.

Taxation: Foreign Investment in UK

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations from inward investors into the UK on the *(a)* clarity and *(b)* timeliness of tax advice from HM Revenue and Customs; and if he will make a statement. [59524]

Mr Gauke: The Government are committed to making the UK an attractive place to do business. HM Revenue and Customs provide assistance to non-UK resident inward investors through the Inward Investment Support service. This service gives clarity and certainty about the tax consequences of significant investments in the UK.

Assistance is additionally provided through informal clearance arrangements as well as in situations permitted by statute such as Transfer Pricing and Advanced Pricing Agreements.

Inward investors have said that HM Revenue and Customs are highly responsive and the services they offer have been well received.

VAT: Imports

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons he plans to reduce the threshold at which commercially imported goods are subject to value added tax from £18 to £15; and what estimate he has made of the revenue which will accrue to the Exchequer from this change. [59722]

Mr Gauke: The Low Value Consignment Relief threshold is being reduced from £18 to £15 from 1 November 2011 as a first step towards ending the increasing exploitation of this relief by companies choosing to sell to UK consumers from jurisdictions outside the EU, thereby eliminating the need to levy VAT on such sales.

The yield generated by this measure is set out at row 38 of Table 2.1 of the main Budget 2011 document published on Budget day.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Travel

Iain Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on first class rail travel *(a)* in 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010. [59132]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In the year before the general election last May £75,573 was spent on first class rail travel. In the year since June 2010 the equivalent figure is £197.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions his Department has had with UNAIDS on its strategy to combat HIV/AIDS. [59508]

Mr O'Brien: I met the UNAIDS executive director, Michel Sidibé, most recently on 13 May 2011 in Geneva. Our discussion covered his latest assessment of the HIV epidemic and UNAIDS' strategy to combat HIV.

Mr Sidibé will meet the Minister of State, Alan Duncan, on 27 June 2011, to discuss follow up to the Multilateral Aid Review and the recent 2011 high level meeting on UNAIDS.

I also attended the UN high level meeting on HIV and AIDS in New York on 8 and 9 June. Full details of my visit can be found on the Department for International Development's website at

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/News-Stories/2011/30-years-of-HIV-Towards-zero-infections/.

Forests: Overseas Aid

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which countries his Department is funding reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation projects. [59832]

Mr O'Brien: The UK is supporting the early development of programmes aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in a range of countries. Most funding to date has been channelled through two funds managed by the World Bank, namely the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and the Forest Investment Programme (FIP).

Under the FCPF the countries receiving support are: Argentina, Bolivia, Cameroon, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

Under the FIP eight pilot countries are developing plans for larger scale investments aimed at reducing rates of deforestation. These countries are: Brazil, Indonesia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, Ghana, Peru, Burkina Faso and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Additionally, the UK has also providing dedicated support to the Congo Basin Forest Fund, which is funding projects in Central Africa, specifically, in Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, and São Tomé et Principe.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what planning the Stabilisation Unit in his Department has undertaken on post-conflict Libya. [59776]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Stabilisation Unit (SU) is co-owned by the Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence. Working closely with partners across Whitehall, the SU has undertaken a number of planning exercises to support the Government's preparedness for engagement on post-conflict Libya. Working to the Secretary of State for International Development, SU recently deployed a multi-national Stabilisation Response Team to Libya which will provide an assessment to inform UK and international support in the post-conflict period.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on securing adequate funding at international level for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. [59409]

Mr Duncan: Ireland, Finland, and Kuwait have all increased their annual average contributions to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). UNRWA has also attracted additional contributions from the Islamic Development Bank and an increased commitment from Saudi Arabia, although it continues to seek further support from regional donors for its education and food funds. UNWRA has successfully formed partnerships with the private sector and has received an extra $2.3 million from the UN regular budget for international staff costs for 2011.

This increase in donor support, however, has not reduced the projected shortfall of $63 million in UNRWA's general budget for 2011. We remain concerned about UNWRA's financial position and will continue to work with the agency, other donors and host countries to help put UNWRA's finances on a sustainable footing. The UK is UNRWA's second largest bilateral donor and is considered a model donor for providing long term support through our five year £110 million funding agreement. We plan to provide up to £23.5 million of unearmarked funding in 2011 to UNRWA's general fund.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what public subsidy his Department plans to provide for the production of biofuels in each of the next four financial years. [59785]

Charles Hendry: The Department of Energy and Climate Change provides financial support for the production of renewable energy for heat and power, including from bioliquids (biofuels for electricity and heat). For every megawatt hour of electricity generated, eligible bioliquids currently receive 1.5 renewables obligation certificates (ROCs) if they are combusted in a dedicated biomass plant, 0.5 ROCs if co-fired with fossil fuel and 2 ROCs if used in a dedicated biomass CHP plant or an advanced conversion technology such as pyrolysis. FAME (fatty acid methyl ester) biodiesel currently receives 1 ROC. The current ROC price is approximately £41.

To receive support, electricity from bioliquids must meet the sustainability criteria set out in the renewables obligation from April 2011.

A review of renewables obligation support for all technologies began in October last year and changes to the support level for bioliquids will be considered as part of this process. We will consult on proposed levels this summer and publish the Government response in late autumn. Banding changes will come into effect on 1 April 2013.

Bioliquids are not eligible for support under the renewable heat incentive, but sustainably-produced bioliquids are being considered for inclusion from autumn 2012 following public consultation later this year.

Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the reporting of carbon consumption figures alongside production figures. [58392]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Sussex (Nicholas Soames) on 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 482W.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what strategic framework his Department has developed for the delivery of its core functions during the comprehensive spending review period. [59730]

Gregory Barker: Delivering on our energy and climate change commitments is vital if the UK is to transform the way that we generate and use energy, and drive ambitious action on climate change, in the UK and abroad. DECC's business plan sets out our core functions and strategic priorities, the steps we are taking to achieve them and the indicators which will show whether or not they are having the desired impact. Progress against the plan is regularly monitored internally and is set out in the structural reform plan monthly updates and the forthcoming quarterly data summary, to be published on our website.

In delivering these high level plans, DECC works through a range of different delivery mechanisms and partners. DECC is constantly seeking to ensure that these mechanisms are effective and deliver best value for money and has recently conducted a review of the Department's delivery landscape and a review of the energy regulatory framework. Both of these can be found on the DECC website. The DECC Delivery Unit also plays an important role in tracking progress on delivery commitments and working with teams to test policies for their 'deliverability' from conception through to implementation.

Electricity

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what account his plans for energy market reform will take of *(a)* Project TransmiT, *(b)* the review of market liquidity and *(c)* other Ofgem initiatives. [58309]

Charles Hendry: The Government will continue to work closely with Ofgem to ensure that the electricity market reforms, Project TransmiT, the review of market liquidity and Ofgem's wider work such as cash-out reform are complementary and mutually reinforcing. The Government consider that significant improvements in wholesale market liquidity are essential to ensure a competitive market and promote long-term security of supply and will help enable EMR to deliver efficient and cost-effective reforms.

The details of the transmission charging arrangements being reviewed under Project TransmiT are outside the scope of the EMR, but we will need to work with Ofgem to ensure that the outcomes of both are complementary.

Energy: Research

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on energy research and development since 1981. [59719]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has spent the following amounts on energy research and development since it was created in October 2008. We do not have a record of spending by predecessor Departments.

Financial year	*£000*
2008-09	5,264
2009-10	6,828
2010-11	50,812

The expenditure in 2010-11 includes £48.3 million on front end engineering design work for the Carbon Capture and Storage Demonstration project.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much of the funding his Department has allocated to energy research and development is to be spent on projects in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the EU in 2011-12. [59721]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has allocated funding of £2,920,000 to energy research and development in 2011-12, all of which is to be spent on projects in the UK.

Fuel Poverty

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 26 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 777W, on energy, whether the Independent Fuel Poverty Review has been asked to examine any extension of the data-sharing scheme with energy suppliers. [58195]

Gregory Barker: The Terms of Reference for the Independent Fuel Poverty Review being carried out by Professor John Hills stipulate that the review will consider fuel poverty from first principles; to determine the nature of the issues at its core, including the extent to which fuel poverty is distinct from poverty, and the detriment it causes. It will also, as appropriate, develop possible formulations for a future definition and any associated form of target which would best contribute, among other things, to developing practical solutions, particularly around identification and targeting of households, and measuring progress resulting from Government action.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* greenhouse gas emissions have been attributable to the UK in each year since 1990. [59464]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 13 June 2011]*: DECC published final estimates of UK greenhouse gas emissions for the period 1990 to 2009 as national statistics on 1 February 2011. These can be found on the DECC website at the following link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_change/gg_emissions/uk_emissions/2009final/2009_final.aspx

The following table shows both carbon dioxide emissions and greenhouse gas emissions for the period 1990-2009. Data are for the UK and the Crown Dependencies and exclude Overseas Territories.

	Carbon dioxide emissions Mt CO_2	*Greenhouse gas emissions Mt CO_2e*
1990	589.7	781.6
1991	596.8	786.5
1992	579.8	759.5
1993	564.9	736.2
1994	559.2	724.2
1995	550.8	714.3
1996	572.8	734.5
1997	548.7	708.1
1998	551.6	703.5
1999	542.3	671.6
2000	549.4	672.0
2001	561.3	675.7
2002	543.7	653.7
2003	553.4	657.6
2004	552.6	654.4
2005	549.7	649.4
2006	546.3	642.9
2007	537.8	632.2
2008	525.1	617.7
2009	473.7	563.6

Low Carbon Innovation Fund

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what process he plans to follow in determining the allocation of funding for the low carbon innovation fund announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review. [59701]

Gregory Barker: The spending review allocated over £200 million to support low carbon technologies, of which up to £60 million will fund offshore wind manufacturing investment at port sites. In order to target the remaining resource, a series of technology innovation needs assessments (TINAs) has been undertaken (and more are planned) to provide a robust evidence base on the innovation needs of the technology families most likely to be important in achieving our climate targets and delivering benefits to the UK's economy.

Drawing on TINAs and other evidence, my Department is reviewing the financial needs of a range of innovative technologies and is developing programme plans, in conjunction with others, to be implemented over the next four years. I expect to announce the first allocation of funding within the next two months, and officials will then work closely with external stakeholders to finalise the design of these first interventions. Announcements on further allocations are expected to follow in the second half of this year.

Members: Correspondence

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter of 18 January 2011 and reminder letter of 23 March 2011 from the hon. Member for Vale of Clwyd. [58347]

Gregory Barker: We made an extensive search but, unfortunately, we have no record of receiving either of these letters. We are grateful to your office for providing a copy letter (received on 8 June) which we will ensure is answered urgently.

I am very sorry for the delay. All your other letters addressed to Ministers since June 2010 have been responded to within the Whitehall target of 15 working days.

Microgeneration

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has plans to require domestic installers of microgeneration technologies to provide potential users with typical years to *(a)* energy and *(b)* carbon breakeven information. [59684]

Gregory Barker: The Microgeneration Certification scheme already requires installers to predict, using common methodologies, the likely performance of the installation. The prediction relates to annual performance, from which energy and carbon savings and years to breakeven can be calculated. More complex information could be mandated, but in considering any future development of the requirements, we would need to strike the right balance between quality assurance for consumers and placing additional requirements on industry.

Nuclear Power Stations: Accidents

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what responsibility the Government have to *(a)* act as an insurer for and *(b)* cover all costs relating to a nuclear accident in the UK. [59632]

Charles Hendry: The Nuclear Installations Act 1965 imposes third party liabilities on nuclear operators, and also requires operators to cover these liabilities "by insurance or by some other means". There is no legal responsibility on the Government to act as an insurer for the operators' nuclear third party liabilities.

In the recent consultation on implementing changes to the Paris convention on third party nuclear liability and the Brussels supplementary convention, the Government set out its proposals for significantly increasing the scale and scope of operators' third party liabilities. Although it appears that commercial insurance will be available to cover most of the new liabilities, there is doubt about whether such insurance (or other commercial cover) will be able to cover all of the liabilities. In the circumstances, the Government also set out its proposal to make provision to enable it to provide cover in return for a charge where cover is not available on the commercial market. The alternative would be not to impose on the operator the liabilities for which commercial cover is not available and for these liabilities to remain with the taxpayer.

The responsibility of Government following a nuclear accident will vary depending on the nature and scale of the accident. The position with third party liability costs is that under the current Conventions operators' liability is capped. The costs above this would have to be met from public funds up to the limit set under the convention, above this Government and Parliament would have discretion to meet further claims.

The costs of a nuclear accident are not just limited to third party liability. In the event that the accident led to the permanent closure of the site, then the operator of a nuclear power station is responsible for ensuring that the site is decommissioned and remediated in accordance with relevant legal and licensing requirements.

For the existing Magnox stations this responsibility sits with the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency and therefore the Government. With regard to the existing AGR stations and the PWR at Sizewell B, which are operated by British Energy, part of EDF Energy, decommissioning and clean up costs will be met by the Nuclear Liabilities Fund. The Government announced at the time of British Energy's restructuring in 2009 that it would fund qualifying liabilities to the extent that they exceed all the assets of the Fund. With regard to any new nuclear power stations it is the Government's policy that operators must have arrangements in place to meet the full costs of decommissioning and their full share of waste management and disposal costs. The Energy Act 2008 requires prospective operators of any new nuclear power stations to have a Funded Decommissioning programme, approved by the Secretary of State, in place before construction begins and to comply with this programme thereafter.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what liability the Government have to cover the costs of a nuclear accident exceeding £1 billion; and if he will make a statement. [59633]

Charles Hendry: The UK is a signatory to the Paris convention on nuclear third party liability and the Brussels supplementary convention. Under the conventions third party liability for operators is capped and in the UK, under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965, is currently £140 million. If compensation claims exceed £140 million, the Government would be obliged to top-up the total amount available for compensation to 300 million Special Drawing Rights (about £300 million) (although it would be able to claim back contributions from the other countries that are party to the Brussels convention). Above this, Government and Parliament have statutory discretion to pay compensation to meet outstanding claims. In a recent consultation the Government proposed increasing the operator liability level from £140 million to €1.2 billion, which is €500 million more than the minimum required by the Paris convention. If compensation claims exceed €1.2 billion, a further €300 million must be made available by the Government although, as now, it will be able to claim back contributions from the other countries that are party to the Brussels convention. Above €1.5 billion Government and Parliament have statutory discretion to meet any third party claims.

The costs of a nuclear accident are not just limited to third party liability and will depend on the nature of the accident. In the event that the accident led to the permanent closure of the site, then the operator of a nuclear power station is responsible for ensuring that the site is decommissioned and remediated in accordance with relevant legal and licensing requirements.

For the existing Magnox stations this responsibility sits with the NDA and therefore the Government. With regard to the existing AGR stations and the PWR at Sizewell B, which are operated by British Energy, part of EDF Energy, decommissioning and clean up costs will be met by the Nuclear Liabilities Fund. The Government announced at the time of British Energy's restructuring in 2009 that it would fund qualifying liabilities to the extent that they exceed all the assets of the Fund. With regard to any new nuclear power stations it is the Government's policy that operators must have arrangements in place to meet the full costs of decommissioning and their full share of waste management and disposal costs. The Energy Act 2008 requires prospective operators of any new nuclear power stations to have a Funded Decommissioning programme, approved by the Secretary of State, in place before construction begins and to comply with this programme thereafter.

Nuclear Power: Liability

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what legal advice he has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received on the increase of nuclear operator liability to over £1 billion. [59636]

Charles Hendry: The Department issued a consultation on the implementation of the changes to the Paris and Brussels conventions on nuclear third party liability which ran from 24 January to 28 April 2011:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/paris_brussels/paris_brussels.aspx

The consultation set out our proposal to set operator liability at €1.2 billion, which is €500 million more than the minimum required under the conventions. As described in the consultation document, this is one of a range of options that would ensure we comply with the conventions.

Water Power

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will consider the merits of raising the level of revenue support for marine renewables in order to ensure the technology can be developed on a commercial scale. [59635]

Gregory Barker: A banding review of renewables obligation support for all technologies is currently under way and any change to the support for marine energy will be considered as part of this process. Banding reviews ensure that as market conditions and innovation within sectors change and evolve, developers continue to receive the appropriate level of support necessary to maintaining investment in the renewables industry.

We will be consulting on proposed bands this summer, with the Government response in autumn 2011.

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the renewables obligation he expects to support wave and tidal energy. [59672]

Gregory Barker: A banding review of RO support for all technologies is currently underway and any change to the support for wave and tidal energy will be considered as part of this process. Banding reviews ensure that as market conditions and innovation within sectors change and evolve, developers continue to receive the appropriate level of support necessary to maintaining investment in the renewables industry.

We will be consulting on proposed bands this summer, with the Government response in autumn 2011.

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to decide the proportion of the Low Carbon Innovation Fund to be allocated to marine energy. [59673]

Gregory Barker: We are currently reviewing the needs of a range of innovation technologies and developing programme plans in conjunction with others. I expect to announce the first allocation of funding within the next two months.

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to provide revenue support for marine energy in the forthcoming review of the Renewables Obligation. [59674]

Gregory Barker: A banding review of RO support for all technologies is currently underway and any change to the support for marine energy will be considered as part of this process. Banding reviews ensure that as market conditions and innovation within sectors change and evolve, developers continue to receive the appropriate level of support necessary to maintaining investment in the renewables industry.

We will be consulting on proposed bands this summer, with the Government Response in autumn 2011

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on revenue and capital support for wave and tidal technology. [59700]

Gregory Barker: There has not been any discussions on revenue or capital support at ministerial level with either HM Treasury or BIS. However, officials are in discussions with these Departments as part of the development of the UK Marine Energy Programme, the Banding Review of RO Support and the allocation of the £200 million for the development of low carbon technologies announced in the spending review.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Asbestos: EU Law

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to transpose into domestic law Article 3 (3)(a) of EU Directive 2009/148/EC on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to asbestos at work; and if he will make a statement. [59353]

Chris Grayling: In April 2011, the Government responded to a reasoned opinion issued by the European Commission that the UK had not fully implemented Article 3 of Directive 2003/18/EC on the protection of workers from asbestos. The Government's response accepted the reasoned opinion. A public consultation on the proposed legislative changes will be held shortly.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* task forces and *(b)* units operate in his Department; what the annual budget is of each; and how many staff each unit employs at each grade. [53417]

Chris Grayling: The Department currently has no task forces as defined in the Cabinet Office's "Categories of Public Bodies" guidance. However, details of other ad-hoc type groups are listed as follows. These groups do not employ any staff, however the Department supports these groups by providing the following resources:

Ad-hoc Group	*Departmental resources provided*	*Financial allocation for 2011-12 (£)*
DWP Provision Forum	Chair—1 x SCS (2 days per year)	[1, 3]0
	Secretariat—1 x EO (8 days per year)	[3]—
Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study Data Access Ethics Committee	Chair—1 x SCS (3 days per year)	[2, 3]6,000
	Members—2 x Band G (5 days per year each)	[3]—
	Secretariat—1 x Band F (0.05 of whole-time equivalent), 1 x Band D (0.25 of whole-time equivalent)	[3]—
Health, Work and Well-being National Stakeholder Council	Secretariat Support only—1 x Band C (2 days per year)	[1]0
Ethnic Minority Advisory Group	Secretariat Support only—Unable to provide a breakdown of time spent on secretariat support	[1]0

[1] No dedicated budget.

[2] This represents the expenses and fees that the independent members are entitled to.

[3] Indicates brace.

The information on businesses units represents the most detailed breakdown available from centrally held records.

The Department's organisational architecture comprises business units designed to deliver: departmental-wide strategy and planning; strategies and policies to meet the needs of particular customer groups; direct delivery of services to customers; and delivery of departmental-wide shared services. Within each of these business units specific responsibilities fall to functions designated as directorates and divisions.

Also within these business units there are smaller business functions that are described as units but data is not held centrally on their functions, budgets or staffing and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The information available is set out in the following tables.

DWP staffing by business and grade as at 31 March 2011

DWP business	*AA/AO*	*EO*	*HEO*	*SEO*	*Gde7*	*Gde6*	*SCS*	*Total*
Jobcentre Plus	36,693	30,090	4,510	1,091	372	141	39	72,939
Pension Disability and Carers Service	7,765	4,212	685	289	109	59	19	13,139
Shared Services	2,801	759	274	128	65	19	10	4,057
Welfare and Wellbeing Group	51	104	187	117	132	41	32	667
Employment Group	73	125	278	132	123	37	20	787
Group Finance	81	475	453	316	170	82	29	1,608
Human Resources	37	160	323	151	115	27	16	833
Corporate IT	65	1,034	309	189	165	111	28	1,903
Strategy Information and Pensions	44	136	214	107	134	38	19	696
Legal Group	96	102	64	22	97	81	24	487
Private Office	10	12	18	0	10	1	4	55
Communications	16	117	119	63	33	6	8	363
Independent Review Service	31	13	47	4	1	0	1	97

DWP staffing by business and grade as at 31 March 2011

DWP business	*AA/AO*	*EO*	*HEO*	*SEO*	*Gde7*	*Gde6*	*SCS*	*Total*
Change Directorate	10	87	110	69	38	15	4	333
DWP Total	47,774	37,426	7,590	2,678	1,564	658	252	97,963

Notes:

1. Figures are Full Time Equivalent (FTE)
2. Figures may not sum due to FTE rounding and the exclusion of a small number of cases where the grade was not held on the pay record at the time the data was extracted.

Departmental resource allocations for 2011-12

Business unit	*Resource budget 2011-12 (£ million)*
Jobcentre Plus	2,868
Pensions, Disability and Carers Service	563
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	545
Health and Safety Executive	198
Employment Group	1,114
Welfare and Wellbeing Group	1,004
Group Finance	411
Human Resources	98
Corporate IT	553
Shared Services	[1]—
Other corporate units, including departmental unallocated provision	446
Total	7,800

[1] Shared Services is funded by the charges it makes to the Government Departments using its services. The costs of those services provided to DWP are met from the budget allocations held by Human Resources and Group Finance Directorate.

Source:

Internal resource allocation records

Departmental Renewable Energy

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many buildings *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by his Department have had renewable energy equipment installed to provide power in the last 12 months; and what type of equipment was installed in each such case. [59675]

Chris Grayling: Because of the length of the pay-back period for renewable technologies, no such equipment has been installed in the last 12 months. The Department and its PFI estate partner have concentrated on reducing consumption and improving efficiency.

However, a Salix funded combined heat and power (CHP) plant was installed at the Department's Quarry House headquarters building in Leeds at the end of 2010. Although this is not strictly renewable as it is fuelled by natural gas it is classified as 'sustainable' technology. Initial indications are that performance is exceeding the estimated saving of £90,000 and 428tCO_2 a year.

In addition, Callendar Park Falkirk, a Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission building constructed in 2009, has three large solar panels which provide the site with hot water.

Employment and Support Allowance

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people will not receive employment and support allowance as a result of a gap in provision between the closure of Pathways to Work in April 2011 and the commencement of the work programme in June 2011; and if he will make a statement. [57919]

Maria Miller: Our top priority has always been to ensure that customers are properly supported during the transition to the Work Programme

Pathways to Work contracts ended on 27 April 2011. Since then, every customer eligible for employment and support allowance (ESA) has continued to receive benefit and will continue to do so, unless their circumstances change. no customer has had, or will have, their employment and support allowance stopped as a result of the Work Programme transitional arrangements.

Employment and support allowance customers are also being supported by the new flexible Jobcentre Plus offer, introduced in April, until the Work Programme is implemented in their area. Following implementation, customers will be able to access the Work Programme on a voluntary or mandatory basis from after their work capability assessment, depending on their circumstances.

Housing Benefit: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposed change to the shared accommodation rate of housing benefit on people in Birmingham. [57846]

Steve Webb: The information requested can be found in the Equality Impact Assessment of the increase to the Shared Accommodation Rate age threshold, available on the DWP website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-hb-shared-accommodation-age-threshold.pdf

Industrial Health and Safety: Heating

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance the Health and Safety Executive issues on *(a)* workplace temperatures which are not considered reasonable and *(b)* temperatures at which control measures to manage heat must be put in place. [59113]

Chris Grayling: There is guidance available on the HSE website covering a range of issues relating to temperature, including thermal comfort, cold stress, heat stress, outdoor working and workplace temperatures. The information also includes guides for managers and for workers and gives advice on conducting a risk assessment and actions that may be taken to address identified risks. The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 Approved Code of Practice recommends a minimum temperature of 16 degrees Celsius (unless much of the work involves severe physical effort in which case the temperature should be at least 13 degrees Celsius). The guidance does not stipulate a specific temperature at which control measures should be put in place to manage high temperatures.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the long-term and short-term physical and psychological effects of persistent exposure to high temperatures. [59184]

Chris Grayling: In 2009 the HSE commissioned an independent review into workplace temperatures, which drew on the wide range of non-Government research available. Following this review the HSE conducted a survey about temperatures in workplaces, to which 2,933 completed responses were submitted. Evaluation of this and other data provided little evidence of significant numbers of illnesses, long or short term, physical or psychological, caused or exacerbated by exposure to high temperatures.

Industrial Health and Safety: Homicide

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many successful prosecutions for corporate manslaughter have been brought by the Health and Safety Executive in each year since 2005. [59197]

Chris Grayling: The offence of corporate manslaughter was introduced in the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007. Since then there has been one prosecution which was taken by the Crown Prosecution Service in 2010-11 and this resulted in a conviction for corporate manslaughter.

The police investigate suspected cases of corporate manslaughter/homicide and prosecution decisions are made by the Crown Prosecution Service (England and Wales), the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (Scotland) and the Director of Public Prosecutions (Northern Ireland). In these cases there is a joint approach to work-related deaths between the Health and Safety Executive and all the relevant regulatory authorities.

Jobcentre Plus: Redundancy

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any Jobcentre Plus staff will be made compulsorily redundant during the comprehensive spending review period. [59771]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking whether any Jobcentre Plus staff will be made compulsorily redundant during the Comprehensive Spending Review period. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Spending Review 2010 announced that DWP would deliver 26% savings in real terms from its core budget over the four year period to 2015. Jobcentre Plus will contribute to these savings by driving up efficiency in the way it works through more use of its online services and implementing ideas that help improve processes and productivity. Where this results in the need to reduce jobs we will do this through normal turnover where possible. If people become surplus we will seek to redeploy them within DWP or the wider Civil Service.

Compulsory redundancies will always be the last resort and voluntary redundancy will always be offered first.

Mental Health

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what qualifications are required of mental function champions based in each medical examination centre; and if he will make a statement. [58564]

Chris Grayling: Mental function champions are required to have post qualification clinical experience in the field of mental health. There is no requirement for them to have postgraduate mental health qualifications in addition to their primary qualifications.

Social Security Benefits

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review the coherence of policy across different Government Departments in the administration of health and welfare benefits. [59571]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions is responsible for welfare and employment issues and we have developed a coherent strategy to address poverty and to support the most vulnerable, helping people break the cycle of benefit dependency. A crucial part of this is to ensure that people are not written off to a lifetime on benefits because they have a health condition or disability. Many people with health conditions are able to sustain and progress in employment. The Department therefore needs to ensure that people currently receiving incapacity benefits are supported in preparing for a return to work where some form of employment is a possibility.

The reassessment of old-style incapacity benefits claimants is a key part of our agenda to create and deliver a 21st century welfare system by ensuring that those people who can work are given the correct support to do so.

Through the groundbreaking Work Programme we are giving those in the private and voluntary sector the freedom to design tailor-made back to work support built around the needs of the individual. The referral process is designed to give harder-to-help groups on benefits access to the programme at the appropriate stage in their claim. Once on the programme, advisers will devise tailored back to work plans for each claimant, taking in to account their circumstances.

In addition, we are currently taking through Parliament the Welfare Reform Bill which makes widespread reforms to the welfare system. An underlying principle of our reforms is to provide a more joined-up service, which is easier and more transparent for claimants to navigate their way through in order to receive personal financial support. Most notably, Universal Credit will provide a new single system of means-tested support for working-age people in and out of work. Support for housing costs, children and child care costs will be integrated in the new benefit. It will also provide additions for disabled people and carers.

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with trade unions regarding women who will see their state pension age increased by one year or more as a result of the proposed change in the state pension age for women; and if he will make a statement. [59420]

Steve Webb: Prior to the introduction of the Pensions Bill into the House of Lords, the Minister for Welfare Reform, the noble Lord Freud, had meetings with a number of stakeholder organisations including representatives from Trade Unions to discuss our proposals.

Unemployed People: Public Transport

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 499-500W, on travel to interview, what steps he is taking to increase public awareness of the Flexible Support Fund. [58419]

Chris Grayling: Advisers within Jobcentre Plus will use the flexibility afforded to them to ensure that claimants are given the right level of support at the right point in their journey towards employment. They will do so by drawing down from a flexible menu of support options which has been developed based on individual and local labour market need, and the Flexible Support Fund is part of this broader menu.

Internal guidance has been developed to help Jobcentre Plus staff decide whether Flexible Support Fund assistance is likely to be beneficial for claimants.

The primary communication strategy is to ensure advisers have the right guidance and support, supplemented by public information, to raise awareness of the offer among customers. Evidence tells us that Jobcentre Plus advisers are one of our most trusted and effective channels of communication. A key part of their role is to help people find work by explaining the integrated package of employment support and encouraging active participation. We are also developing a range of stakeholder communications to increase awareness among our partners and customer representative groups, and building on existing content on the Directgov website to ensure customers understand how flexibility works for them.

Work Capability Assessment

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to publish the second independent review by Professor Harrington on the work capability assessment in relation to fluctuating conditions. [58361]

Chris Grayling: We expect Professor Harrington to publish the second independent review of the WCA in the autumn. On 7 June 2010, Professor Harrington published an interim report, which can be viewed at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/wca-review-interim-report-may-2011.pdf

Work Capability Assessment: Mental Health

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration is given to the timing of work capability assessments at appropriate points during a cycle of medication of a person with a mental health condition; and if he will make a statement. [58245]

Chris Grayling: Atos healthcare professionals provide advice to Jobcentre Plus decision makers on when a customer is likely to be able to return to work. Treatment, including any medication that the customer is taking is one of the factors that the healthcare professional takes into account when providing this advice. Decision makers use the advice from the healthcare professional, in addition to all the other available evidence, when deciding when to refer the customer back to Atos for reassessment.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many appeals against work capability assessments made on the basis of mental health needs were upheld at tribunal in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [58246]

(2) how many appeals against work capability assessments have been made on grounds of mental health conditions in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [58247]

Chris Grayling: There were 50,100 appeals heard against the Fit for Work decision for new employment and support allowance (ESA) claims made up to the end of February 2010, where the primary condition was classed as Mental and Behavioural Disorders. Of the appeals heard over this period 28,900 (58%) were upheld in favour of DWP.

The data presented above come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions, functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare and appeals data from the Tribunals Service.

Data on appeals heard are published for new ESA claims starting between October 2008, when ESA was introduced, and up to the end of February 2010 (the latest month where there are sufficient volumes of appeals heard). Appeals are included in the figures only where the person claiming has been found Fit for Work, they have subsequently appealed against the Department's decision and the appeal has been heard by the Tribunals Service. Figures are available only for appeals that have been completed and not those that are currently under way.

Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely that there are more appeals that have not yet been heard. As a result these figures should continue to be treated as emerging findings and not final at this stage.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many questions asked during the course of a work capability assessment relate to mental health conditions; and if he will make a statement. [58248]

Chris Grayling: An Atos healthcare professional should carry out a mental function assessment in all cases where the customer has a condition that affects mental, cognitive or intellectual function.

There is no standard set of questions. The number and type of questions that the healthcare professional asks as part of the mental function assessment will vary from person to person according to nature and severity of the underlying mental health condition(s).

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Departmental Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of his Department's budget he expects to be spent on staff pensions in each of the next five years. [54573]

Mr Davey: Pension benefits for staff are provided through arrangements under the Principal Civil Service Pension scheme. Therefore, the budget for the Department does not include expenditure for paying pensions.

Details of the level of social security and other employer contributions that fall to the Department are published annually within our resource accounts which are available on the Department's website. Information on costs for the last financial year (2010-11) is expected to be available in July 2011.

The proportion of the Department's budget to be spent on employer contributions in each of the next five years will be determined by whatever changes are agreed to the Principal Civil Service scheme following the recommendations in the Hutton review. However, the Department estimates that it will spend less than 1% of its overall budget on such contributions in each of the next four years. No estimate has been made for 2015-16 as this is outside the current spending review period.

Local Government Finance

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much each local authority received from each *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital funding stream from his Department in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; how much funding his Department allocated from each such stream in each year; and what the change was in the level of funding in each such stream between those years in (A) cash and (B) real terms. [49252]

Mr Davey: The following table shows the programme (revenue) funding payments made by the Department direct to local authorities in 2010/11 and the amounts that have been allocated to local authorities so far in 2011/12. No direct capital funding was made in 2010/11 or allocated in 2011/12. The differences between the amounts paid and the amounts allocated are shown in cash terms.

£

Authority	*Paid in 2010/11*	*Allocated in 2011/12*	*Difference*
Birmingham City Council	1,735,590	3,716,789	1,981,199
Bristol City Council	807,145	250,991	-556,154
Cardiff County Council	765,827	653,625	-112,202
City of York Council	249,866	249,866	0
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	7,837	—	-7,837
Glasgow City Council	440,705	475,250	34,545
Hertfordshire County Council	9,000	—	-9,000
Liverpool City Council	135,743	275,217	139,474
London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames	10,175	—	-10,175
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	708,010	—	-708,010
Newport City Council	281,405	253,645	-27,760
North Lanarkshire Council	163,030	270,594	107,564
North Yorkshire County Council	22,653	—	-22,653
Nottingham City Council	458,387	—	-458,387
Nottinghamshire County Council	169,153	248,622	79,469
Powys County Council	441	—	-441
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	673,179	225,361	-447,818
Slough Borough Council	9,000	—	-9,000
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	272,199	274,709	2,510

Postal Services: Crime

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether potential postal offences reported to Royal Mail by members of the public are routinely passed on to the police; how many such offences were reported by Post Office Ltd and Royal Mail in the last 12 months; what mechanism is in place to enable customers to report potential postal offences; and if he will make a statement. [60115]

Mr Davey: These are operational matters for the company.

I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Moya Greene, to respond directly to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Students: Counselling

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what legal obligations apply to higher education providers in relation to the emotional wellbeing of their students through the provision of pastoral care services. [58405]

Mr Willetts: It is a long-established principle that universities have a duty of care to their students. Higher education institutions (HEIs) are under no legal obligations in relation to the emotional wellbeing of their students but they do have duties under the Equality Act 2010 to support disabled students in higher education, including those with mental health conditions. HEIs themselves will determine what welfare and counselling services they need to provide to their students to offer appropriate support.

Institutions have access to guidance on supporting students and staff with mental health conditions from a range of sector and medical bodies, including the Heads of University Counselling Services, the Association of Managers of Student Services in Higher Education, the Royal College of Psychiatrists, the former Disability Rights Commission and most recently from the UniversitiesUK/Guild HE Working Group for the Promotion of Mental Well-Being in Higher Education. Further information about the Working Group is available at the following website:

http://www.mwbhe.com/

Trade Unions: Pay

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of full-time trade union officials whose salaries are paid from the public purse. [58977]

Mr Davey: No precise estimates are available. However, according to the Workplace Employment Relations Survey 2004, about 10% of "senior" workplace representatives, in both the public and private sectors combined, work full time on their representative functions.

Trade Unions: Public Bodies

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the employment of full-time trade union officials by public bodies. [58973]

Mr Davey: BIS has not received any representations recently on the employment of full-time trade union officials by public bodies.

WALES

Freedom of Information

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 407W, on freedom of information, if she will publish information on *(a)* the nature of each request, *(b)* the name of the applicant and *(c)* the reason why the deadline was not met in respect of each Freedom of Information Act 2000 request which was not determined within the deadline. [59828]

Mr David Jones: The requests sought information on:

the composition of the Referendum Project board, its terms of reference and availability of minutes;

amounts of severance pay paid to Wales Office staff and the numbers of staff involved;

Wales Office Senior Civil Service expense claims;

Wales Office staff expenses;

the difference between landfill site for grant and landfill site licensed;

foreign direct investment and China;

closure of the DSA in Cardiff;

correspondence between the Wales Office and the Treasury about the Barnett Formula;

approved contractors to work on highways in Wales and approved contractors to work on crash barriers;

travel and subsistence for Ministers, Directors and staff for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010/11;

the Wales Office St David's Day reception;

the list of invitees to the St David's Day reception;

credit card statements since April 2010; and

written guidance from special advisers to press officers.

The names of the applicants in respect of the above requests are being withheld in order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998. The applicants provided their details to enable the Wales Office to respond to their requests for information. It would be incompatible with the principles set out in the 1998 Act to disclose their details for another purpose.

The reasons why the deadlines were not met were that additional time was needed to ensure that the information was comprehensive and accurate, to consult others or to consider fully the public interest test.

DEFENCE

Apache Helicopters: Guided Weapons

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the safety implications for armed forces personnel of firing Hellfire missiles from Apache helicopters; and if he will make a statement. [59261]

Peter Luff: Hellfire missiles, and all other munitions fired from the UK Apache helicopter, have had a complete safety and risk analysis undertaken to understand all aspects of the implications of their use prior to their introduction to service. This included assessments of the risks to service personnel and other operators of the aircraft, both in the air and on the ground.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Hellfire missiles have been fired by Apache helicopters in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [58703]

Peter Luff: Detailed records for Apache attack helicopter firings of Hellfire missiles are only available since 2008 onwards, as shown in the following table:

	Number of Hellfires
January 2008 - December 2008	151
January 2009 - December 2009	164
January 2010 - December 2010	128
January 2011 - May 2011	108

This includes both operational and training firings.

The Hellfire missile has shown itself to be the weapon of choice for Apache attack helicopter operations, proving to be an accurate and reliable weapon system and providing airborne fire support to ground forces. This predominantly involves supporting troops in contact, in addition to providing cover for the emergency medical extraction of seriously wounded personnel.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Dr Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many (a) civilian and *(b)* uniformed armed forces personnel at each grade have pension pots (i) currently valued and (ii) projected to be valued on retirement at more than (A) £1 million and (B) £1.5 million. [59356]

Mr Robathan: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Redundancy

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applications for voluntary redundancy from the armed forces his Department has received from members of the armed forces resident in each parliamentary constituency. [59386]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 13 June 2011]:* The total number of extant valid applications for the compulsory regular armed forces redundancy programme across the three services is 2,295. Data broken down by parliamentary constituency could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The window for applications for this first, of up to four, tranches has now closed. All tranches are due to be complete by March 2015.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on operations-specific personal protective *(a)* clothing and *(b)* equipment in the last 12 months. [58366]

Peter Luff: During financial year 2010-11, the Ministry of Defence spent approximately £15 million on operational-specific personal protective equipment including body armour, pelvic protection and helmets. These costs include items issued to new recruits and the replenishment of stores in addition to supplies for personnel deployed.

Items of operational-specific personal protective clothing are contained within a number of wider clothing contracts. Costs for the last 12 months could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many disciplinary offences for the improper use of a Government procurement card have been recorded in his Department in each of the last five years. [59030]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the Department does have a whistleblowing hotline at the defence irregularity reporting cell and the following figures are based on incidents reported to that cell:

1 April 2007 - 31 March 2008: four cases resulted in staff being prosecuted or disciplined

1 April 2008 - 31 March 2009: three cases resulted in staff being prosecuted or disciplined

1 April 2009 - 31 March 2010: Nil cases resulted in staff being prosecuted or disciplined

1 April 2010 - 31 March 2011: One case resulted in staff being prosecuted or disciplined

The figures are provided as at the date of report and include all cases closed up to 13 June 2011.

Falkland Islands: Air Force

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many quick reaction alert activations took place in the Falklands in the last 12 months; and how many aircraft *(a)* took part and *(b)* were airborne within the alert time on each such activation; [59553]

(2) how many Ministry of Defence aircraft were permanently based in the Falklands in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the model of each such aircraft is. [59555]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 14 June 2011]:* I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 23 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 391W. There have been no further quick reaction alert activations.

HMS Endurance

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence *(a)* for how long HMS Endurance was leased, *(b)* how much that lease cost and *(c)* at what cost it was purchased. [58918]

Peter Luff: The records of these arrangements are stored in archive and need to be retrieved in order to provide a full answer to the hon. Member. I will write to the hon. Member in due course.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the decommissioning of HMS Endurance. [58919]

Peter Luff: Cost models for the different options for delivering the UK's ice patrol capability will be developed to inform the decision-making process. I am withholding details of such costs as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

HMS Protector

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the *(a)* fuel, *(b)* personnel and *(c)* maintenance of HMS Protector in each year of its lease; [58920]

(2) *(a)* what options there are available to extend the lease of HMS Protector and *(b)* what estimate his Department has made on the cost of continuing the lease of HMS Protector beyond the current contract. [58921]

Peter Luff: The initial three year lease for HMS Protector can be extended for up to another two years. I am withholding information relating to the costs of extending the lease as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

We have estimated that the annual costs of operating HMS Protector would be approximately £2.3 million for fuel and £4 million for personnel. Maintenance costs are included in the leasing contract and are not separately identifiable.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of leasing HMS Protector under sharing arrangements with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and if he will make a statement. [59260]

Peter Luff: The delivery of the UK's ice patrol capability is funded solely by the Ministry of Defence and there are no cost sharing arrangements with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. HMS Protector has been leased, at a cost of £26million, from GC Rieber Shipping for an initial period of three years.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Royal Air Force personnel are based at Gioia del Colle as part of Operation Ellamy; [57677]

(2) what the average *(a)* daily and *(b)* monthly cost of basing Royal Air Force personnel at Gioia del Colle has been to date. [57699]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 7 June 2011]:* As of 1 June 2011 there were 550 RAF personnel, to the nearest 50, based in Gioia del Colle as part of Operation Ellamy. These include UK personnel seconded to NATO for operation Unified Protector.

The precise number of personnel overseas fluctuates on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces, visits and a range of other factors. We do not, therefore, publish actual figures for personnel deployed.

The average monthly cost, assessed on 1 June 2011, for accommodation of all UK personnel (including Royal Navy, army and civilians) at Gioia dell Colle is around £1 million. This equates to an approximate cost of £30,000 per day.

Navy

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what vessels are leased by the Royal Navy; and what the cost to the public purse was to lease each such vessel in each of the last five years. [58914]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence leases three river class vessels (HMS Tyne, HMS Severn and HMS Mersey), one more capable modified river class vessel (HMS Clyde) and one ice breaker (HMS Protector). As the lease for HMS Protector began in March 2011, there are no historical costs.

Lease costs for the four river class vessels

£

	Financial year				
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
HMS Tyne, HMS Severn and HMS Mersey[1]	8.9 million	7.3 million	7.3 million	7.3 million	7.3 million
HMS Clyde	642,000	3.5 million	3.5 million	3.5 million	3.5 million

[1] The lease cost for the HMS Tyne, HMS Severn, HMS Mersey is a single charge for all three vessels.

Reserve Forces

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what post-operation support his Department makes available to reservists based in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* other parts of the UK. [59252]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 520-21W, to the hon. Member for Redditch (Karen Lumley).

Reserve Forces: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the reserve forces in Northern Ireland were mobilised in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [59335]

Mr Robathan: The following table provides the total number of reserve personnel with a residential address in Northern Ireland who were mobilised in each of the last three financial years.

Financial year	*Mobilised Reservists*
2008-09	80
2009-10	200
2010-11	60

All numbers have been subject to rounding.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the *(a)* Royal Naval Reserve and *(b)* Territorial Army were recruited in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [59337]

Mr Robathan: The following table provides information on the total number of personnel recruited from Northern Ireland into the Royal Naval Reserve and the Territorial Army in each of the last three financial years:

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Royal Naval Reserve	8	20	26
Territorial Army	373	263	121

TRANSPORT

Cycling England

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans he has to support the work formerly carried out by Cycling England; [58863]

(2) what plans he has to support cycling in large urban areas outside London. [58866]

Norman Baker: The Government are strongly committed to cycling, as was made clear in the coalition agreement.

We see the encouragement of cycling and walking, along with improvements to public transport, as key to cutting carbon emissions and enhancing the quality of our urban areas.

As announced in the Public Bodies Review, Cycling England ceased to exist after 31 March 2011.

In January this year we published our White Paper on Local Transport: "Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon—Making Sustainable Local Transport Happen". Chapter 5 of the White Paper sets out what we are doing, and what local authorities can do, to support cycling.

At the same time I announced the £560 million Local Sustainable Transport Fund, available to transport authorities outside London, large or small, rural or urban. Transport authorities themselves, working together with the communities they serve, have determined their own transport priorities in bidding to the Fund. The Department for Transport is currently assessing bids to the first tranche of the Fund, and I will be making announcements as planned later this summer. Many of the bids feature proposals on cycling.

Halifax-Leeds Railway Line

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for future numbers of carriages on passenger rail services between Halifax and Leeds. [59637]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport announced in April 2011 an agreement with Northern Rail to add 20 carriages to their fleet. As a consequence the following trains will be lengthened: the 09.16 service from Halifax to Leeds and the 06.37 service from Leeds to Halifax (which then goes on to arrive at Manchester Victoria at 08.14). These carriages are expected to be introduced in December 2011.

The Department is currently in negotiations with Northern Rail to agree the deployment of further additional carriages in the north. These discussions are expected to be concluded and an announcement made later in the year.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average value is of the properties in respect of which compensation has been awarded under the HS2 Exceptional Hardship scheme; and how many such homes were *(a)* semi-detached, *(b)* detached, *(c)* terraced and *(d)* bungalows. [59492]

Mr Philip Hammond: 38 applications have been accepted, and the total value of 34 of these properties, calculated by the sum of formal offers made to applicants, is £19,920,000, giving an average property value of £585,882.35. HS2 Ltd is currently awaiting valuations on the other four properties that have been accepted.

HS2 Ltd does not record information on property types.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of those granted HS2 exceptional hardship compensation to date were supported by legal advisors. [59495]

Mr Philip Hammond: HS2 Ltd does not record this information.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to establish appropriate long-term blight arrangements to assist those most seriously affected by the proposed HS2 line; and if he will make a statement. [59503]

Mr Philip Hammond: Details of the statutory provisions on blight and compensation that would apply for any new high speed line, and a range of options for possible additional discretionary arrangements to help those whose properties would not be compulsorily purchased in order to build a new line, but who may still experience a significant loss in the value of their property as a result of it, are set out in Annex A of the Government's consultation document, "High Speed Rail: Investing in Britain's Future" available at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/consultation-document

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many property owners who applied to the HS2 Exceptional Hardship Scheme applied in respect of a property which was inherited following bereavement; and how many such applications were *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected. [59506]

Mr Philip Hammond: Four applications to the Exceptional Hardship Scheme have been received so far in respect of a property which is part of the estate of a deceased person. Two of these have been accepted; the other two are awaiting decision.

Transport: Disadvantaged

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has to promote social inclusion through transport. [58865]

Norman Baker: Good transport is crucial to people's quality of life. The Department for Transport (DfT) actively promotes measures to enhance social inclusion by enabling disadvantaged people to connect with employment opportunities, key services, social networks and goods.

DfT initiatives contributing to reducing social exclusion include:

Providing free, off-peak bus travel for elderly and disabled people in England.

Reducing crime and the fear of crime wherever it occurs in the transport system.

Continuing to build on the progress that has already been made following the introduction of accessibility regulations for trains, buses and coaches under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA).

Helping disabled and older drivers to continue to use their car as a means of accessing the services they require.

Transport: Regional Planning and Development

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the status is of the interim regional transport authority; and through what mechanism its functions are being exercised. [55307]

Norman Baker: The North East Interim Regional Transport Board (NEIRTB) was a non-statutory body which agreed the regional funding advice provided to Government in 2006 and 2009 on the prioritisation of transport major schemes in the North East. The NEIRTB currently has no functions, but it is possible that such a non-statutory body could have a role in future in prioritising local authority major transport schemes.

Following the 2010 spending review, an announcement has already been made on the Highways Agency major schemes programme to 2015 and the remaining decisions on funding for local authorities major transport schemes in "the Development Pool" will be made following submission of best and final offers by scheme promoters.

In line with greater localism, the Government have already devolved many aspects of transport policy and funding to the local authority level. The Government will announce later this year how they intend to take forward such devolution with respect to local authority major transport schemes for the next spending review period.

JUSTICE

Asylum: Appeals

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether arrangements are in place to restrict eligibility to appeal against asylum judgements in the same way as restrictions are placed on eligibility for legal aid for the general public. [59689]

Mr Djanogly: The Government recently conducted a consultation on proposals for the reform of legal aid in England and Wales, which closed on 14 February 2011.

Currently legal aid can be provided for asylum matters. Before funding is granted, the applicant must satisfy a means test, and a test of the merits of the case. The means test for asylum cases is the same as for other types of case.

We are considering the consultation responses, and will publish the Government response shortly.

Civil Proceedings: Insolvency

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on his proposals for reform of civil litigation funding and costs for insolvency cases; what response he has made to such representations; and if he will make a statement. [59836]

Mr Djanogly: Annex A of 'Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: The Government Response,' set out the list of those who responded to the consultation. This included the Association of Business Recovery Professionals, the Insolvency Lawyers Association and the Insolvency Service. Ministry of Justice officials are in ongoing contact with officials at HMRC and the Insolvency Service to discuss the impact of the reforms on insolvency proceedings.

Coroners

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has undertaken a cost-benefit analysis of the costs of appeal against a coroner's decision *(a)* to a Chief Coroner and *(b)* by means of judicial review. [59774]

Mr Djanogly: An impact assessment for part 1 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 was published in December 2008 and summarised the full costs and benefits of implementing the coroners provisions in the Act, including those relating to appeals. This estimated overall set up costs of £10.9 million and running costs of £6.6 million per annum. I placed a further, more detailed, breakdown of those figures in the Library of the House on 20 May. This estimated that approximately £2.2 million of the running costs would be needed to fund appeals to the chief coroner. No further analysis has been conducted.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has made an assessment of the potential cost to the public purse of carrying out functions that would have been undertaken by the Chief Coroner. [59775]

Mr Djanogly: As announced in the written ministerial statement on 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 36WS, changes to coroners' services from partial implementation of Part One of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 will be cost-neutral. The decision to transfer Chief Coroner functions without fully implementing Part One of the Act means that the estimated £10.9 million set-up costs, and £6.6 million running costs per annum would no longer be incurred by the public purse.

Debt Collection

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of *(a)* successful enforcements and *(b)* funding recovered from the original outstanding debt were made by High Court enforcement officers in each of the last five years. [59309]

Mr Djanogly: High Court enforcement officers are obliged to provide the Ministry of Justice with annual Statistics on the writs they receive and execute. Figures are only available since 2008:

Writs cleared in year	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Unenforceable	43,607	50,245	45,931
No goods	2,157	2,007	2,133
Refused entry	4,240	3,306	3,152
Paid - by instalments	9,431	13,015	12,289
Paid - single payment	8,752	8,530	8,323
Other	218	229	342
Total number of writs cleared	68,405	77,332	72,170

Writs cleared in year	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Percentage Unenforceable	63.7	65.0	63.6
Percentage no goods	3.2	2.6	3.0
Percentage refused entry	6.2	4.3	4.4
Percentage paid by instalments	13.8	16.8	17.0
Percentage paid - single payment	12.8	11.0	11.5
Percentage Other	0.3	0.3	0.5
Total money collected from these writs (£)	64,454,694	61,855,548	64,253,832
Total value of all these writs (£)	347,181,497	420,347,175	391,774,510
Total value of enforceable writs only (£)	92,146,834	107,401,658	97,776,844
Pence in the £ - all writs	18.6	14.7	16.4
Pence in the £ - enforceable writs	69.9	57.6	65.7
Value of unenforceable debt (£)	255,034,663	312,945,517	293,997,666
Unenforceable debt as percentage of total debt	73.5	74.4	75.0
Number of new writs received in year	70,557	78,411	71,114

Successful enforcement is defined as those cases paid either by instalment or by a single payment.

HMCTS does not have statistics on the fees recovered by the High Court enforcement officers.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the monetary value is of his Department's contract with Sherforce for High Court enforcement services. [59310]

Mr Djanogly: HM Courts and Tribunals Service does not have any contracts with Sherforce or, in fact, any other High Court enforcement officer. Enforcement in the civil courts is a matter for the creditor. It would be for the creditor to request the High Court enforcement officer to enforce on their behalf.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases have been passed by HM Courts and Tribunals Service to each High Court enforcement officer in each year since 2006. [59652]

Mr Djanogly: HM Courts and Tribunals Service have not passed any cases to High Court enforcement officers. Enforcement in the civil courts is a matter for the creditor. It would be for the creditor to request the High Court enforcement officers to enforce on their behalf.

However the number of High Court monetary writs issued by creditors since 2006 is:

	Writs issued
2006	38,094
2007	48,731
2008	53,196
2009	49,701

Statistics for 2010 have not yet been published.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the monetary value was of each of his Department's contracts for High Court enforcement services in each of the last three years; and who held each such contract; [59654]

(2) what the monetary value is of each of his Department's contracts for High Court enforcement services in Liverpool; and who held each such contract. [59655]

Mr Djanogly: HM Courts and Tribunals Service does not have any contracts with any High Court enforcement officers. Enforcement in the civil courts is a matter for the creditor. It would be for the creditor to request the High Court enforcement officer to enforce on their behalf.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what strategic framework his Department has developed for the delivery of its core functions during the comprehensive spending review period. [59725]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Departmental Business Plan 2011-15 sets out the strategic vision of the Department during the spending review period. We have organised our reform work into the five Structural Reform Priorities that make up the Business Plan.

The delivery arms (National Offender Management Service, HM Courts and Tribunals Service, the Legal Services Commission and the Office of the Public Guardian) have drawn up business plans that tie in to the overall strategic direction of the Department. The plans are available through the following website:

www.justice.gov.uk

To support this framework, business areas that support front line delivery have produced Corporate Delivery Plans. These include the strategies that are needed to deliver change, as well as delivery actions and resources.

Domestic Violence: Legal Aid

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on his proposals for legal aid for private family cases involving victims of domestic violence; what response he has made to such representations; and if he will make a statement. [59834]

Mr Djanogly: The Government recently conducted a consultation on proposals for the reform of legal aid in England and Wales, which closed on 14 February 2011.

The Government have received consultation responses and representations from representative bodies and members of the public about legal aid for private family cases involving victims of domestic violence, and our proposals in this area have been raised in parliamentary debates. We have been carefully considering responses. The Government's response to the consultation will be published shortly.

Drugs: Convictions

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of *(a)* possession and *(b)* supply of illegal drugs of each classification level in each year since 2007; and how many such people received (i) a custodial sentence and (ii) the maximum possible sentence in each case. [59758]

Mr Blunt: Persons found guilty at all courts and sentenced, given immediate custody and the statutory maximum sentence for possession, supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug, by classification, in England and Wales from 2007 to 2010, can be viewed in the tables as follows:

Number of persons found guilty at all courts and sentenced for possession, supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug and maximum sentence, England and Wales, 2007 to 2010[1, 2, 3]

			2007					2008		
Drug offences	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Other sentences*	*Immediate custody*	*Maximum sentence*	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Other sentences*	*Immediate custody*	*Maximum sentence*
Possession class A (max 7 years)	13,389	13,286	12,383	903	3	14,599	14,516	13,531	985	4
Possession class B (max 5 years)	2,466	2,449	2,347	102	0	2,764	2,754	2,658	96	0
Possession class C (max 2 years)	1,761	1,798	1,738	60	4	2,848	2,892	2,805	87	5
Possession class unspecified	33	47	40	7	•	21	29	18	11	•
Possession cannabis[4] (max 5 years)	14,073	14,004	13,842	162	3	17,855	17,831	17,584	247	2
Supply class A (max life)	2,633	2,594	784	1,810	0	2,968	2,976	931	2,045	2
Supply class B (Max 14 years)	84	85	59	26	0	98	97	51	46	0
Supply class C (max 14 years)	201	230	165	65	0	273	293	180	113	0
Supply class unspecified	222	233	20	213	•	248	250	20	230	•
Supply cannabis(4) (max 14 years)	367	354	253	101	0	352	334	230	104	0
Possession with intent to supply Class A (max life)	3,500	3,473	1,004	2,469	2	4,010	3,972	1,059	2,913	1
Possession with intent to supply Class B (max 14 years)	308	302	163	139	0	341	344	180	164	0
Possession with intent to supply Class C (max 14 years)	687	761	473	288	0	805	905	590	315	0
Possession with intent to supply Class unspecified	46	68	28	40	•	46	58	20	38	•
Possession with intent to supply Cannabis (max 14 years)	958	910	678	232	0	1,241	1,142	879	263	0

			2009					2010		
Drug offences	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Other sentences*	*Immediate custody*	*Maximum sentence*	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Other sentences*	*Immediate custody*	*Maximum sentence*
Possession class A (max 7 years)	13,742	13,670	12,894	776	9	12,254	12,175	11,396	779	2
Possession class B (max 5 years)	4,204	4,186	4,072	114	0	4,265	4,268	4,110	158	0
Possession class C (max 2 years)	1,923	1,922	1,858	64	3	1,578	1,576	1,521	55	5
Possession class unspecified	16	27	14	13	•	15	23	20	3	•
Possession cannabis[4] (max 5 years)	21,457	21,300	20,980	320	2	25,188	25,012	24,666	346	0

	2009					2010				
Drug offences	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Other sentences*	*Immediate custody*	*Maximum sentence*	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Other sentences*	*Immediate custody*	*Maximum sentence*
Supply class A (max life)	2,804	2,809	830	1,979	0	2,549	2,530	774	1,756	0
Supply class B (Max 14 years)	171	172	84	88	0	344	340	189	151	0
Supply class C (max 14 years)	234	235	148	87	0	122	120	79	41	0
Supply class unspecified	182	184	21	163	•	284	287	35	252	•
Supply cannabis(4) (max 14 years)	387	392	256	136	0	517	521	348	173	0
Possession with intent to supply Class A (max life)	3,675	3,696	861	2,835	0	3,753	3,687	908	2,779	1
Possession with intent to supply Class B (max 14 years)	468	470	296	174	0	882	893	590	303	0
Possession with intent to supply Class C (max 14 years)	700	725	473	252	0	325	326	248	78	0
Possession with intent to supply Class unspecified	53	60	13	47	•	50	58	23	35	•
Possession with intent to supply Cannabis (max 14 years)	1,453	1,443	1050	393	0	2,343	2,307	1660	647	0

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Sentenced may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

[4] Cannabis was re-classified to a class B drug on 26 January 2009

• Not applicable

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Legal Aid: Education

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has made on his proposals for legal aid for legal help and advice on education matters; what response he has made to such representations; and if he will make a statement. [59835]

Mr Djanogly: The Government recently conducted a consultation on proposals for the reform of legal aid in England and Wales, which closed on 14 February 2011.

We proposed that all education matters be removed from the scope of legal aid. We took the view that education issues are generally of less importance to the individual than cases concerning an individual's immediate physical safety or liberty, and therefore proposed that funding does not continue, other than for discrimination education matters that are currently within the scope of the scheme.

We are currently considering the responses to the consultation and will publish our response in due course.

Payments: Natural Resources

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislative proposals to make it compulsory for oil, mining and gas companies based in the UK to publish details of any payments they make to foreign Governments. [59799]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

As the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), made clear following the G20 Finance Minister's meeting in February 2011, the Government believe that development of new rules to require oil, gas and mining companies to report the payments they make to Governments should take place at the international level.

The Government have committed to arguing for a European agreement that matches the new standards set in the US, and the UK will be engaging with EU partners on this issue.

Prison Sentences

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders have served an indeterminate sentence for public protection and been released *(a)* in total and *(b)* in respect of each offence, and what length of time was spent in prison in each case where an offender has been released from prison. [59444]

Mr Blunt: The data record that the total number of prisoners released from an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection between 2006 and

2010 was 202. These data were published in the Offender Management Statistics 2010 tables on the Ministry of Justice website in April 2011.

	Releases	Average time served (years)
2006	3	1
2007	13	2
2008	36	2
2009	53	3
2010	91	4

The number of releases by offence group in 2010 is shown in the following table:

	Releases
Violence against the person	46
Sexual offences	14
Robbery	25
Other	12
Total	97

Detailed data on offences before 2010 are not held centrally in an electronic format. A manual trawl of prisoner files would be required to obtain these data; this would incur disproportionate cost.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners' Release

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what proportion of those convicted of *(a)* rape, *(b)* sexual offences and *(c)* violent offences have been recalled to prison after being released on licence in each of the last 10 years; [59430]

(2) how many people convicted of sexual offences against children are on licence; and how many such offenders were released on licence in each of the last 10 years; [59431]

(3) how many persons convicted of *(a)* rape, *(b)* sexual offences against children, *(c)* other sexual offences and *(d)* a violent offence were released from prison after serving custodial sentences of (i) less than one year, (ii) between one and two years, (iii) between two and three years, (iv) between three and four years, (v) between four and five years, (vi) between five and six years, (vii) between six and seven years, (viii) between seven and eight years, (ix) between eight and nine years, (x) between nine and 10 years, (xi) between 10 and 11 years, (xii) between 11 and 12 years, (xiii) between 12 and 15 years, (xiv) between 15 and 20 years and (xv) over 20 years in each of the last 10 years; [59445]

(4) how many persons convicted of *(a)* rape, *(b)* sexual offences and *(c)* violent offences are released on licence; and how many were released on licence in each of the last 10 years; [59446]

(5) how many and what proportion of persons convicted of *(a)* rape, *(b)* sexual offences against children, *(c)* other sexual offences and *(d)* a violent offence were released from prison having been in custody (i) less than 50 per cent., (ii) between one-half and two-thirds, (iii) between two-thirds and three-quarters, (iv) between 75 per cent. and 80 per cent., (v) between 80 per cent. and 85 per cent., (vi) between 85 per cent. and 90 per cent., (vii) between 90 per cent. and 95 per cent., (viii) between 95 per cent. and 100 per cent. and (ix) 100 per cent. of their sentence in each of the last 10 years. [59447]

Mr Blunt: Under a determinate sentence of 12 months or more imposed under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (for offences committed after 4 April 2005) the legislation requires that prisoners must be released automatically at the half way point with the rest of the sentence served on licence in the community and subject to recall to prison. If recalled to prison, the offender may serve some or all of the rest of his sentence in custody.

For some, lower risk offenders serving sentences of less than four years, release may be granted at the discretion of the prison governor earlier than the half-way point on Home Detention Curfew (HDC), where the offender is subject to an electronically monitored curfew (or "tagging"). All registered sex offenders and violent offenders serving extended sentences are excluded from HDC, and prisoners who are eligible to be considered must pass an individual risk assessment before HDC may be granted.

Offenders convicted of serious violent or sexual offences committed before 4 April 2005 and subject to a sentence of four years or more remain subject to the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1991. Under such a determinate sentence the offender may be released between the half way and two-thirds point of the sentence by the Parole Board, with release automatic at the two thirds point. Once released, the offender is on licence and subject to recall to prison up to the three quarters point of the sentence.

Adults serving a determinate sentence of less than 12 months serve half the sentence in custody and are then 'at risk' for the remainder of their sentence, which means that if they commit a further offence during this period they may have to serve the outstanding part of the sentence. However, offenders aged 18 to 21 who are subject to a sentence of Detention in a Young Offender Institution (DYOI) of less than 12 months are subject to a minimum period of three months supervision following release from custody.

Offenders may be detained in custody beyond the automatic release date if they are subject to added days imposed under disciplinary proceedings for behaviour in prison.

Under an indeterminate sentence, the offender must serve in full the minimum term imposed by the court before being considered for release by the Parole Board. If and when the offender is released he or she is subject to licence conditions and recall to prison. If the offender is serving a sentence of imprisonment for public protection the licence period is a minimum often years. The licence period under a life sentence lasts for the whole of the offender's natural life.

Young people sentenced to detention and training orders serve the first half of their sentence in custody and the second half in the community. Early release allows those young people who meet the criteria to be released from custody either one or two months earlier than their mid point date, depending on the length of their sentence. The early release scheme is available to young people serving a DTO, of between eight and 24 months in length. On release, it is a mandatory requirement for the young person to be electronically monitored for the period when they would otherwise have been in custody; until the midpoint. There is a presumption that all young people will be released early unless they are serving a sentence for specific sexual or violent offences, or their behaviour and/or progress against their training plan is unsatisfactory.

Young people aged 10-17 convicted of certain serious offences serve the first half of their sentence in custody up and the second part in the community, subject to supervision requirements. Young people serving terms of between three months and four years may be eligible for earlier release under a home detention curfew, which operates in a similar way to the adult scheme.

The first table shows the number of prisoners released from determinate sentences for *(a)* rape, *(b)* other sexual offences, and *(c)* violence against the person offences, by detailed sentence length band in each year from 2001-10 (except 2009 where the data is not available to this level of detail). From the data held centrally, it is not possible to separately identify those offenders convicted of sexual offences against children; they are included with other sexual offences.

The second table shows the number of prisoners released from prison and subject to supervision in the community for *(a)* rape, *(b)* other sexual offences, and *(c)* violence against the person offences in each year from 2001-10 (except 2009 where the data is not available to this level of detail). Again sexual offences against children will be included in the other sexual offences group.

The third table shows the proportion of time served by offenders discharged from determinate sentences for *(a)* rape, *(b)* other sexual offences, and *(c)* violence against the person offences in each year from 2001-10 (except 2009 where the data are not available to this level of detail). All those serving two-thirds or more of their sentence have been grouped together because their time served will include time on recall.

The fourth table shows the number of offenders recalled to custody in 2009 and 2010 who had originally been convicted of *(a)* rape, *(b)* other sexual offences, and *(c)* violence against the person offences. The equivalent data for earlier years is not held centrally. The number of recalls in a given year should not be compared with the number of discharges in that year, because offenders will not necessarily be released and recalled in the same year.

Accessible electronic data on offences are incomplete for recalls before 2009. Offence data are contained within individual prisoner files. However, a manual trawl of each prisoner's record for each year would substantially exceed cost limits.

Figures in all tables are all those aged 15 and over.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Table 1: Prisoners discharged from determinate sentences for rape, other sexual offences and violence against the person, England and Wales, 2001-10

	2001			2002			2003		
	Rape	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the person*	*Rape*	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the person*	*Rape*	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the person*
Total	490	1,644	12,511	532	1,635	12,952	517	1,570	12,804
Less than one year	7	399	7,581	5	356	7,507	7	312	7,257
1 years to less than 2 years	12	403	2,204	8	381	2,558	14	414	2,517
2 years to less than 3 years	11	228	967	14	273	1,093	10	253	1,122
3 years to less than 4 years	28	200	661	45	192	747	30	229	814
4 years to less than 5 years	48	151	388	50	160	378	34	133	405
5 years to less than 6 years	70	86	272	62	98	249	65	79	249
6 years to less than 7 years	79	60	161	85	62	145	80	55	169
7 years to less than 8 years	75	50	93	70	40	104	68	38	92
8 years to less than 9 years	52	30	67	76	32	54	65	20	51
9 years to less than 10 years	30	13	27	35	10	29	48	10	30
10 years to less than 11 years	35	13	43	38	19	35	41	20	42
11 years to less than 12 years	12	2	9	13	2	9	14	3	7
12 years to less than 15 years	26	9	23	28	10	28	33	3	36
15 years to less than 20 years	4	0	10	3	0	13	7	1	12
20 years to less than life	1	0	5	0	0	3	1	0	1

	2004			2005			2006		
	Rape	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the person*	*Rape*	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the person*	*Rape*	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the person*
Total	553	1,629	14,321	572	1,583	15,555	515	1,569	15,612
Less than one year	6	359	8,627	7	313	9,389	16	297	9,750
1 years to less than 2 years	12	404	2,482	14	370	2,659	12	384	2,592

	2004			2005			2006		
	Rape	Other sexual offences	Violence against the person	Rape	Other sexual offences	Violence against the person	Rape	Other sexual offences	Violence against the person
2 years to less than 3 years	11	233	1,112	20	286	1,261	19	272	1,173
3 years to less than 4 years	21	218	830	30	233	903	53	246	917
4 years to less than 5 years	48	138	470	42	148	537	46	154	448
5 years to less than 6 years	55	82	324	65	82	286	48	68	315
6 years to less than 7 years	87	68	164	78	51	204	77	46	171
7 years to less than 8 years	62	47	112	68	41	112	52	38	92
8 years to less than 9 years	79	35	70	55	21	60	57	22	57
9 years to less than 10 years	48	11	26	47	14	28	34	8	22
10 years to less than 11 years	46	17	42	54	10	40	47	20	35
11 years to less than 12 years	12	6	9	16	1	10	9	4	7
12 years to less than 15 years	56	9	38	65	12	44	38	7	26
15 years to less than 20 years	8	2	9	11	1	18	7	3	7
20 years to less than life	2	0	6	0	0	4	0	0	0

	2007			2008			2010		
	Rape	Other sexual offences	Violence against the person	Rape	Other sexual offences	Violence against the person	Rape	Other sexual offences	Violence against the person
Total	609	1,569	16,633	656	1,687	19,123	763	1,677	19,051
Less than one year	11	272	10,336	12	316	12,117	12	266	10,647
1 years to less than 2 years	15	350	2,726	9	397	3,086	12	388	3,686
2 years to less than 3 years	25	269	1,203	21	289	1,381	19	336	1,762
3 years to less than 4 years	38	233	825	43	255	830	39	235	1,046
4 years to less than 5 years	54	165	571	60	158	542	80	179	682
5 years to less than 6 years	72	102	436	90	83	490	93	100	488
6 years to less than 7 years	74	57	201	81	79	281	87	68	229
7 years to less than 8 years	63	41	143	71	38	164	83	35	138
8 years to less than 9 years	65	32	78	71	29	98	124	29	150
9 years to less than 10 years	55	11	30	43	11	38	59	11	81
10 years to less than 11 years	59	16	38	69	13	41	69	15	57
11 years to less than 12 years	17	5	6	20	5	12	18	0	23
12 years to less than 15 years	52	12	29	51	10	31	52	10	38
15 years to less than 20 years	9	4	9	14	4	11	13	4	21
20 years to less than life	0	0	2	1	0	1	3	1	3

Table2: Prisoners discharged from determinate sentences on licence for rape, other sexual offences and violence against the person, England and Wales, 2001-10

Table2: Prisoners discharged from determinate sentences on licence for rape, other sexual offences and violence against the person, England and Wales, 2001-10

	Rape	Other sexual offences	Violence against the person
2001	485	1,282	6,936
2002	530	1,330	7,260
2003	511	1,293	7,213
2004	548	1,317	7,540
2005	568	1,305	8,265
2006	504	1,296	8,014
2007	601	1,327	8,600
2008	645	1,405	9,622
2010	769	1,466	10,888

Table 3: Percentage of time served (including remand) in prison by prisoners discharged from determinate sentences for rape, other sexual offences and violence against the person, England and Wales

	2001			2002			2003		
	Rape	Other sexual offences	Violence against the person	Rape	Other sexual offences	Violence against the person	Rape	Other sexual offences	Violence against the person
Total	406	1,424	10,484	442	1,422	11,026	434	1,360	10,840
Less than 50[1]	15	233	5,827	9	230	6,638	10	195	6,677
50 to less than 2/3	294	1,058	3,899	352	1,090	3,702	330	1,066	3,604

Table 3: Percentage of time served (including remand) in prison by prisoners discharged from determinate sentences for rape, other sexual offences and violence against the person, England and Wales

	2001			*2002*			*2003*		
	Rape	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the person*	*Rape*	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the person*	*Rape*	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the person*
2/3 or more	97	133	758	81	102	686	94	99	559

	2004			*2005*			*2006*		
	Rape	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the person*	*Rape*	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the person*	*Rape*	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the person*
Total	443	1,400	12,049	554	1,560	15,034	506	1,539	15,088
Less than 50[1]	7	236	7,069	12	197	7,367	11	164	6,502
50 to less than 2/3	377	1,053	4,287	373	1,089	5,159	333	1,103	5,612
2/3 or more	59	111	693	169	274	2,508	162	272	2,974

	2007			*2008*			*2010*		
	Rape	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the person*	*Rape*	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the person*	*Rape*	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the person*
Total	596	1,538	16,078	636	1,654	18,539	740	1,597	16,960
Less than 50[1]	16	121	6,887	30	181	8,145	86	162	6,520
50 to less than 2/3	376	1,105	5,931	416	1,156	7,119	476	1,163	8,105
2/3 or more	204	312	3,260	190	317	3,275	178	272	2,335

[1] This includes cases where prisoners were deported or where the prisoner was discharged on the Friday before a weekend release date.

Note:

All those serving two-thirds or more of their sentence have been grouped together because their time served will include time on recall.

Table 4: Number of offenders recalled to custody in 2009 and 2010 for rape, other sexual offences and violence against the person, England and Wales

	2009	*2010*
Rape	226	224
Other sexual offences	482	507
Violence against the person	3,109	3,248

Probation: Unpaid Work

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the arrangements for the disclosing party in respect of probation staff to sign confidentiality clauses in respect of the tendering for unpaid work in England and Wales. [59401]

Mr Blunt: All MOJ procurement competitions require the same confidentiality undertaking to be completed by bidders. Probation trusts have non-departmental public body status and are responsible for internal management and assessment of processes involved as a bidder.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what definition of information previously known to the employee he proposes to use for probation staff required to sign confidentiality clauses in respect of the tendering for unpaid work in England and Wales. [59402]

Mr Blunt: The bidder is required to respond with an overall undertaking as an organisation tendering for the service. The detail surrounding management of employee's within that organisation sits with the probation trust. There is no specific reference to information previously known to the employee within the MOJ confidentiality agreement.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects on the role of union representatives for probation staff of signing confidentiality clauses in respect of the tendering for unpaid work in England and Wales. [59403]

Mr Blunt: All bidding organisations are required to complete the same confidentiality undertaking. It is for the bidder to assess and manage the implications of this for staff.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons it is proposed that confidentiality clauses in respect of the tendering for unpaid work in England and Wales should last for two years. [59404]

Mr Blunt: The normal statutory provisions shall apply to the release of information to tenderers, none of which contains a two year limitation. All information which is not already a matter of public knowledge including written and oral information is subject to a confidentiality clause and this undertaking will continue to apply at all times in the future.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons probation trusts have been grouped together for the purpose of tendering for unpaid work in England and Wales. [59695]

Mr Blunt: Six 'competition lots' have been constructed to cover England and Wales. This reflects the decision to compete Community Payback at a national level rather than at the level of the 35 trusts to maximise economies of scale and promote innovative delivery models. A number of different options for the design of the lots were considered. The final design has achieved balanced lots in terms of volumes, they do not cut across existing probation trust boundaries and do not give advantage to any provider.

Reoffenders

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what powers a private sector operator of the contract for unpaid work in England and Wales will have in relation to offenders who reoffend whilst on placement. [59400]

Mr Blunt: A private sector provider of Community Payback (like a probation trust) would have no specific powers in relation to offenders who reoffend while on placement. Any suspected offence committed on a work placement would be reported to the police.

As a provider of probation services appointed by the Secretary of State for Justice private sector providers of Community Payback would have the same powers in relation to the enforcement and breach of community and suspended sentence orders as a probation trust.

Shoplifting: Fixed Penalties

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he has made in his consideration of fixed penalty notices for shoplifting offences; and if he will make a statement. [59546]

Mr Blunt: Penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) are available to the police to deal quickly and effectively with low-level, antisocial and nuisance offending, including minor instances of retail theft. The scheme allows the police to spend more time on frontline duties and provides an alternative to prosecution in appropriate cases.

Before PNDs were introduced, many low-level instances of retail theft went unpunished or received just a verbal warning. PNDs ensure that retail theft is given the priority that it deserves in terms of punishing offenders immediately and protecting consumers and businesses.

On 7 December 2010 we published the Green Paper, "Breaking the Cycle: Effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders". This included a proposal to create a clearer national framework for the use of out-of-court disposals, of which the PND scheme is a part. The consultation period finished on 4 March and we are considering the comments received. We will publish a formal Government response shortly.

Victims and Witnesses General Fund

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which organisations applied for funding from the Victims and Witnesses General Fund (2011-14); how much funding each organisation applied for; and how much each organisation was granted. [59665]

Mr Blunt: A total of 277 applications for funding from the Victim and Witness General Fund were received from 256 voluntary sector organisations.

The information provided in this answer does not include funding to organisations from either the Homicide Fund or the Rape Support fund. There were separate exercises through which funding was awarded from these funds.

Successful applications

There were 114 successful applications to the General Fund from 110 organisations. Of these, there are 104 organisations to which grants have been awarded and with which the agreement between the organisation and the Ministry of Justice has been signed. Details are provided in the following tables.

There are a further six organisations which have been awarded grants in principle but with which discussions continue and in respect of which it is therefore not yet possible to provide details.

Antisocial behaviour

£

Organisation	3 year funding: sought	approved
Restorative Solutions	147,000	147,000
Light for Life	142,984	142,984
Voluntary Action NE Lincs	67,680	67,680
The Riverside Group	129,511	129,511
The Safer Luton Partnership	105,000	105,000

Domestic violence

£

Organisation	3 year funding: sought	approved
Acorns (North Tyneside)	100,767	100,767
Refuge	313,169	313,169
Nottingham Women's Aid	103,460	103,460
My Sister's Place	122,667	122,667
Women's Aid Integrated Services (WAIS)	186,445	186,445
Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI)	330,461	106,887
Domestic Violence Services (Keighley)	290,800	290,800
Domestic Abuse Safety Unit	90,000	90,000
East Surrey Domestic Abuse Services	121,428	121,428
Early Interventions and Protection Services	120,000	120,000
Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid	120,575	120,575
Citizen's Advice Maidstone	90,000	90,000
The Nia Project - Hackney	129,668	129,668
Domestic Violence and Abuse Service (South and West Devon)	339,381	339,381
North Derbyshire Women's Aid	95,715	95,715
Southampton Women's Aid	96,000	96,000
Stonham Housing	100,872	100,872
Womans Trust	142,230	142,230
Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services (Norfolk)	99,904	99,904
RISE	122,506	122,506
BCHA	216,805	216,805
Sandwell Women's Aid	110,415	110,415
Survive (Bristol)	134,449	134,449
The Novas Scarman Group	108,517	108,517

Domestic violence

		£
	3 year funding:	
Organisation	sought	approved
Safer Merthyr Tydfil	67,382	67,382
Oasis Domestic Violence Service	117,788	117,788
Wrexham Women's Aid	138,639	138,639
Advance	60,000	60,000
North Nottinghamshire Independent Domestic Abuse Services (NNIDAS)	108,827	108,827
Arch (North Staffs)	114,167	114,167
Victim Support (South Devon)	124,200	124,200
Atal-y-Fro	123,774	123,774
Lighthouse Women's Aid	372,081	372,081

Hate crime

		£
	3 year funding:	
Organisation	sought	approved
The Metro Centre	88,500	88,500
Dial House (Chester)	23,130	23,130
Society for the Promotion and Advancement of Romany Culture (SPARC)	89,696	89,696
Pakistani Resource Centre	84,740	84,740
Milton Keynes Equality Council	173,700	173,700
Lesbian and Gay Foundation	76,148	59,000
Joint Association of Nissa (JAN) Trust	137,536	137,536
Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality	386,400	386,400
Support Against Racist Incidents (SARI)	226,095	89,025
Stoke on Trent Citizen's Advice Bureaux	65,966	65,966
Lancashire Disability Information Federation	105,412	105,412
VOICE UK	163,556	163,556
Stop Hate UK	64,440	64,440
Bede House Association	156,152	156,152
Brighton and Hove Impetus	88,961	88,961
Community Security Trust	179,750	147,000
Galop	133,126	133,126

Homicide

		£
	3 year funding:	
Organisation	sought	approved
Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA)	93,594	[1]20,823
Assistance Support and Self Help in Surviving Trauma (ASSIST)	60,000	60,000

[1] Agreed for one year only.

Non specific crime

		£
	3 year funding:	
Organisation	sought	approved
Luton All Women's Centre	133,404	133,404
The Streetlife Trust	107,251	107,251
Rubicon Cares	84,831	84,831
Greater Manchester High Sheriff's Police Trust	71,500	71,500
Safe!	54,031	54,031
The Angelou Centre	166,624	166,624

Non specific crime

		£
	3 year funding:	
Organisation	sought	approved
Galop	112,630	112,630
Victim Support (Lewisham)	98,909	98,909
Victim Support (Sussex)	120,000	120,000

Robbery and burglary

		£
	3 year funding:	
Organisation	sought	approved
Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust	289,552	75,000
Fresh Horizons	381,476	75,000
Cambridgeshire Police Shrievalty Trust	139,376	75,000
West Herts Against Crime	266,055	75,000
Norfolk PACT	129,796	75,000

Road traffic crime

		£
	3 year funding:	
Organisation	sought	approved
Aftermath Support	83,683	83,683
Brake (Literature)	124,725	124,725
Brake (Helpline)	203,166	203,166
Road Victims Trust	167,244	167,244
RoadPeace	242,825	242,825

Sexual violence

		£
	3 year funding:	
Organisation	sought	approved
Women's Support Network	87,278	87,278
Rotherham Women's Counselling Service	149,118	149,118
Survivors UK	192,184	192,184
The Birchall Trust	90,783	90,783
South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre	140,472	140,472
Safe and Sound Derby	242,484	242,484
Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (Cheshire and Merseyside)	110,998	110,998
Twelve's Company	213,145	213,145
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)	523,575	523,575
Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre (Darlington and County Durham)	109,409	109,409
First Step	110,959	110,959
The Green House (Bristol)	72,626	72,626
Safeline (Warwick)	176,106	176,106
Incest and Sexual Abuse Survivors	325,196	175,128
Karma Nirvana	272,101	265,977
Kinergy	155,755	155,755
Rugby RoSA	211,386	211,386
Worcestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre	137,228	137,228
Eva Women's Aid	135,088	135,088
Rape and Sexual Abuse Helpline	85,151	85,151
Crisis Point	277,499	142,499
Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (Liverpool)	124,303	109,303

Sexual violence

Organisation	£ 3 year funding: sought	approved
Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (Sefton)	160,154	160,154
Safety Net Advice and Support Centre	92,378	92,378
Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre	295,793	295,793
Axis Counselling	147,178	141,532
Derbyshire Rape Crisis	172,635	172,635
Sexual and Domestic Abuse and Rape Advice Centre (Burton and District)	199,635	160,583
Respond	166,943	166,943
Rape Crisis (Wycombe, Chiltern and South Buckinghamshire)	112,943	112,943
Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre	141,828	141,828
Southampton Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service	149,619	149,619

Unsuccessful applications

Details of unsuccessful applications are provided in the following tables.

Antisocial behaviour

Organisation	£ 3 year funding sought
Preston and South Ribble (North) Street Pastors	36,000
Britannia Economical Support Trust	250,000
Halton Housing Trust	549,501
Involve Northwest	205,802
Integritas Advocacy	48,666
Preston Community Network	95,242
Advance Housing and Support	331,500
Big Ideas Trust	129,000
African Refugee Women 'Nzoto Ya Nkolo'	90,000
Volunteer Centre Blackpool Wyre and Fylde	125,906
Developing Initiatives for Support in the Community	217,669
Swansea Council for Voluntary Services	232,500
Victim Support	2,669,954
Victim Support	120,494
Rights and Equalities Newham	153,000

Domestic violence

Organisation	£ 3 year funding sought
Cymdeithas Tai Eryri	241,908
Chorley and South Ribble Council for Voluntary Services	49,063
North Liverpool Citizen's Advice Bureau	59,732
Victim Support	120,000
Relate Coventry	77,309
Public Help Desk	115,992
Plymouth Citizen's Advice Bureau	213,272
Dacorum Women's Aid	180,192
Women's Centre	110,115
Innovative Vision Organisation	93,600
The Church of England Children's Society	141,519
South Tyneside Council for Voluntary Service	60,000
Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services (Suffolk)	107,380

Hate crime

Organisation	£ 3 year funding sought
Hart Gable	126,405
Disability Equality (NW) Ltd	276,675
Preston and Western Lancashire Racial Equality Council	178,980
Race Equality Sandwell	67,940
Somerset Race Equality Council	190,920
Victim First	214,131
The Monitoring Group	512,263
Preston Muslim Forum	74,125
Race Equality First	90,510
Oldham Race Equality Partnership	274,746
Plymouth and Devon Racial Equality Council	250,265
London Action Trust	361,000
Gay Advice Darlington	108,657
Birmingham Race Action Monitoring Unit (BRAMU)	156,000
Inclusion North	167,145
Furness Multicultural Community Forum	83,550
Tendring and Colchester Minority Ethnic Partnership	193,775
Disability Cornwall	146,555
Pukar Disability Resource Centre	111,527
South East Wales Racial Equality Council	371,893
Platform 51	243,343
Disability Action Waltham Forest	398,395
Norwich and Norfolk Racial Equality Council	350,000
Torfaen People's First	134,675
Manchester Sudanese Tree Development Community	79,300
Warwickshire Race Equality Partnership	137,800
British Afghan Women's Society	45,000
Sahara Project Preston	127,749
Peterborough Racial Equality Council	164,324
Specialist Mediation in Lancashire East	114,840
Victim Support	1,289,250
Dare to Care	299,610
WECIL ltd	321,138
Step Forward (Tower Hamlets)	189,335
Anthony Walker Foundation	0
Gender Identity Research and Education Society	60,160
VOICE UK and Victim Support	610,439

Homicide

Organisation	£ 3 year funding sought
National Victims' Association	108,761
Mothers Against Murder and Aggression (MAMAA)	278,909
Support After Murder and Manslaughter (National)	460,583
Lucie Blackman Trust	231,900
Support After Murder and Manslaughter (Merseyside)	94,400

Homicide

Organisation	£ 3 year funding sought
Through Unity	116,215

Non-specific crime

Organisation	£ 3 year funding sought
New Horizons Counselling Service	140,000
Liberty from Addiction	85,118
The Relationship Centre	111,064
Peterborough Citizen's Advice Bureau	155,094
London Irish Women's Centre	141,393
Catch22	247,500
North Wales Women's Centre	103,884
Breckfield and North Everton Neighbourhood Council	342,240
Remedi	692,015
Bournemouth People First	157,051
Women's Enterprising Breakthrough	379,509
Southwark Law centre	148,685
Women's Enterprising Breakthrough	205,460
South Liverpool Regeneration	127,160
Horton Housing	720,709
Gwent Bobby Van Trust	194,220
Church of England Children's Society	735,566
No Limits (Southampton)	161,508
Southwark Neighbour Dispute Mediation Scheme	215,128
Mentor Achieve Learn Support	60,000
New Choices for Youth	213,194
Bridge Chapel Centre	46,800
Compass	90,000
Human Relations Network	83,700
Platform 51	243,813
Cobalt Housing Association	500,000
Charlton Athletic Community Trust	165,320
Amber Training Advisory Support Service	321,000
Consortico	238,864
Network for Surviving Stalking	71,810

Road traffic

Organisation	£ 3 year funding sought
Support and Care After Road Death and Injury	80,000

Robbery and burglary

Organisation	£ 3 year funding sought
CASAC Leeds	2,483,500
Victim Support	600,000
Wigan Citizen's Advice Service	160,420
Victim Support	859,938

Sexual violence

Organisation	£ 3 year funding sought
Walsall Street Teams	93,424
AIM Project	198,500
CIS'ters	150,000
Survivors Manchester	201,422
Nottingham Women's Counselling Service	131,000
Child Victims of Crime	36,240
SALT South West	48,052
Womankind, Bristol Women's Therapy Centre	140,104
Survivors Helping Each Other	137,691
The Nia Project (East London)	110,968
Manchester Rape Crisis	114,473
The Lantern Project	104,700
Survive (Survivors of Sexual Abuse in North Yorkshire)	62,620
Survivors (Hull and East Riding)	240,420
Barnardos (Wales)	727,932
Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (Guildford)	100,776
The NIA Project - Haringey	129,668
West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre	178,040
Supportline	37,000
The Margaret Jackson Trust	100,121
MOSAC	129,423
Southall Black Sisters	151,614
SEREN	121,979
Coalition for the Removal of Pimping (CROP)	262,519
New Pathways	255,717
Mothers4Mothers	371,160
Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service	154,417
Birmingham Rape and Sexual Violence Project	419,626
New Pathways	129,576
GROW	263,123
New Pathways	52,106
Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service	136,837
Aurora Health Foundation	128,280
Brighton Women's Centre	161,663
Someone Cares	94,215
Revival Support Services	176,389
One25	197,100
Eaves Housing for Women	124,711
Blackpool Advocacy	160,500
Barnardos	1,305,254
Rotunda Ltd	151,076
Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (Croydon)	135,000
The Survivors Trust	117,915
Savana	141,862
Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (Cornwall)	121,000
Sexual Abuse and Incest Line (SAIL)	84,544
Rape Crisis (Wycombe, Chiltern and South Buckinghamshire)	112,844
Respond	112,425
One in Four	284,891
West Cumbria Rape Crisis	120,568
East Kent Rape Line	119,601
The Foxton Centre	53,330
Clinic for Boundaries Studies (Professional Boundaries)	92,833
Family Matters	256,291

Violent crime

Organisation	£ *3 year funding sought*
Barnardo's (Liverpool)	428,332
Safe n Sound Youth Project	344,742
Victim Support	155,000

EDUCATION

Child Protection Review

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the cost of implementing the recommendations of the Munro Report. [59823]

Tim Loughton: The final report of Professor Munro's review of child protection reflects months of careful work and extensive consultation. Her recommendations are wide-ranging. It is important that we consider carefully, with professionals themselves, how best to respond in order to bring about the sustainable, long-term reform needed.

I have therefore established an implementation working group with key individuals from the social work profession, local government, health, police, justice, education and the voluntary sector. This group met for the first time on 25 May and will work with us to develop a response to Professor Munro's report by the summer, informed by their collective expertise and by the experience from the local authorities which are trialling more flexible approaches.

In developing our response, we will consider the costs of options for implementation as well as the benefits to be secured through, for example, reductions in unnecessary bureaucracy and regulation.

The Government have already announced that the Children's Workforce Development Council has been remitted to spend a minimum of £43.9 million on the Social Work Improvement Fund in this financial year. This is an increase on the £23 million distributed through the Social Work Improvement Fund in 2010-11.

Children: Day Care

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much each local authority allows in flexible free entitlement grants to attend day care nurseries in 2011-12. [58185]

Sarah Teather: Local authorities, in consultation with their Schools Forums, decide how best to distribute 3-16 funding across their locality. This includes setting funding rates to providers of free early education, including day care nurseries. Local authorities are required to report on financial expenditure through section 251 returns. Data on individual local authority spend for 2011-12 are not yet available, but will be published later in the year.

Children: Protection

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects on the effectiveness of child protection of reductions in support from the public purse for the voluntary sector. [59829]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has not made its own assessment. However I am pleased that as part of the Department's Voluntary and Community Sector grant announced on 25 February, the Department is awarding around £10 million over the two years 2011-12 and 2012-13 to help 17 voluntary organisations tackle the child protection and safeguarding needs of children and young people. This grant is one of a range of funding streams from the Department to the voluntary sector, including a new grant agreement announced on 15 February 2011 to support NSPCC with £11.2 million between 2011-15 for continued investment in ChildLine and the NSPCC HelpLine.

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects on the effectiveness of child protection of reductions in local authority budgets. [59830]

Tim Loughton: It is for local authorities to determine the allocation of their resources and I am sure that in doing so they will be taking into account both their statutory responsibilities and the needs of the most vulnerable children and young people. The Department for Education has not made its own assessment, but I am aware of the research that has been carried out by other organisations. I am pleased that this research suggests that in making difficult decisions, most local authorities are taking steps to protect the most vulnerable children.

Children's Centres

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether community schools may use Sure Start Children's Centres to assist in the delivery of the curriculum. [58762]

Mr Gibb: Community schools may use Sure Start Children's Centres to assist in the delivery of the curriculum. The Government are keen for schools and others to use their professional judgment to decide how to deliver the curriculum to meet the needs of their pupils.

Children's centres play a valuable role in making integrated services available for young children and their families, particularly for those in greatest need. The Government want to retain a network of children's centres and are giving local authorities and schools greater flexibility to enable them to design services which meet the needs of local communities.

Classroom Assistants: Pay

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what guidance his Department has provided to schools on the payment of salary increases to teaching assistants earning less than £21,000 per annum; [59610]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of state schools which have not paid salary increases to the teaching assistants and technicians earning below £21,000 in 2011-12. [59609]

Mr Gibb: No such assessment has been made centrally. Central Government do not have a role in determining salary, or salary increases for school support staff, including teaching assistants and technicians nor have they provided guidance to schools in respect of the payment of salary increases for any school support staff.

Matters related to school support staff pay are decided locally by the local authority for community and voluntary controlled schools and the governing body for foundation and voluntary-aided schools. Salaries of school support staff in academies are a matter for individual institutions.

Crown Relocations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many contracts his Department holds with Crown Relocations; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58646]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education does not hold any current contracts for Crown Relocations.

Departmental Public Appointments

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to publish the relevant financial and non-financial interests of members of his Department's independent review panels; and if he will make a statement. [58527]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not collect this information. The appointment of members to the Department's independent review panels is based on their professional expertise. Before making the appointment, Ministers would consider the suitability of an appointee particularly where there may be a conflict of interest or if the appointment may have an adverse impact on the review.

Any remuneration given to appointed panel members for their roles on independent reviews is available on the Department's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews

English Baccalaureate: GCSE

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the potential change in takeup of GCSE and A-level courses in each subject attributable to the introduction of the English Baccalaureate. [58816]

Mr Gibb: The effect of the English Baccalaureate will depend on decisions taken by individual schools and pupils. It is one of a number of measures to ensure that pupils are given the chance to take the qualifications that will best help them progress to further education and employment.

The Government do not require schools to provide them with detailed information on pupils' GCSE choices. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that the English Baccalaureate measure is having a positive effect, with more schools making the combination of subjects open to more pupils. There are a range of information sources, from exam entries to workforce information, which will help us judge the impact of the English Baccalaureate. We will make full use of these in keeping the policy under review.

G4S

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many contracts his Department holds with G4S; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58678]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education does not hold any current contracts with G4S.

GCSE

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what number and percentage of children *(a)* receiving and *(b)* not receiving free school meals attained five grade A*-C GCSEs, including English and mathematics, excluding equivalents, in each local authority area in each year since 2001. [53964]

Mr Gibb: The data requested for each year since 2004/05 have been placed in the House Libraries.

It is not possible to provide figures for 2000/01 to 2003/04. The National Pupil Database only exists from 2002/03 onwards, and for 2002/03 and 2003/04 information on whether a pupil achieved 5 A*-C grades including English and mathematics was not recorded in a readily accessible form. Generating that information can be produced only at disproportionate cost.

GCSE: Reading Berkshire

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many pupils in each *(a)* school and *(b)* local authority ward in Reading achieved five A*-C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics in each year since 1997; [59648]

(2) how many pupils in each *(a)* school and *(b)* local authority ward in Reading achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE in each year since 1997. [59709]

Mr Gibb: The information requested for the years 2005/06 to 2009/10 is shown in the following tables. Figures for previous years back to 1996/97 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Achievements at GCSE and equivalent for pupils[1,2] at the end of key stage 4 by ward[3] in Reading local authority— Years: 2005/06 to 2009/10—Coverage: Maintained schools (including Academies and CTCs)[4]

		Total number of pupils at the end of KS4	Number of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades	Number of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSEs
Church ward	2005/06	129	64	55
	2006/07	109	49	42

Achievements at GCSE and equivalent for pupils[1,2] at the end of key stage 4 by ward[3] in Reading local authority— Years: 2005/06 to 2009/10—Coverage: Maintained schools (including Academies and CTCs)[4]

		Total number of pupils at the end of KS4	*Number of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades*	*Number of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSEs*
	2007/08	126	67	61
	2008/09	131	62	48
	2009/10	127	98	57
Katesgrove ward	2005/06	115	95	95
	2006/07	103	93	93
	2007/08	97	97	97
	2008/09	95	[5]—	[5]—
	2009/10	92	92	92
Norcot ward	2005/06	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2006/07	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2007/08	10	0	0
	2008/09	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2009/10	n/a	n/a	n/a
Redlands ward	2005/06	133	124	124
	2006/07	132	125	125
	2007/08	136	123	123
	2008/09	138	124	124
	2009/10	132	123	123
Southcote ward	2005/06	406	188	118
	2006/07	439	229	139
	2007/08	367	229	131
	2008/09	335	232	118
	2009/10	305	249	120
Thames ward	2005/06	164	79	74
	2006/07	189	105	86
	2007/08	183	99	93
	2008/09	180	124	109
	2009/10	225	146	117
Tilehurst ward	2005/06	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2006/07	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2007/08	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2008/09	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
	2009/10	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Whitley ward	2005/06	78	25	11
	2006/07	60	18	4
	2007/08	72	34	17
	2008/09	78	43	14
	2009/10	100	58	28

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] Pupils at the end of key stage 4 in each academic year.

[2] In 2010 iGCSEs, accredited at time of publication, have been counted as GCSE equivalents and also as English and mathematics GCSEs.

[3] Census Area Statistics (CAS) wards were created for 2001 Census outputs. The Department reports using the CAS Wards because they allow us to report ward level data on a consistent geographic basis. One of the weaknesses associated with reporting data using administrative wards is that the boundaries for administrative wards can change on a frequent basis. This makes it difficult to compare data at ward level over time.

[4] School figures include all schools, whilst ward figures include maintained schools (including CTCs and academies) only. For this reason, data for some schools is not included in the ward table, and also pupil numbers in schools do not always sum up to the total number of pupils in the ward.

[5] Figures not shown in order to protect confidentiality.

Source:

National Pupil Database (final data)

Achievements at GCSE and equivalent for pupils[1, 2] at the end of key stage 4 by school in Reading local authority— Years: 2005/06 to 2009/10—Coverage: All schools[3]

			Total number of pupils at the end of KS4	Number of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades	Number of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSEs
Bulmershe and Whitegates ward	SWAAY School	2005/06	4	[4]—	[4]—
		2006/07	n/a	n/a	n/a
		2007/08	n/a	n/a	n/a
		2008/09	n/a	n/a	n/a
		2009/10	n/a	n/a	n/a
Caversham ward	Hemdean House School	2005/06	8	[4]—	[4]—
		2006/07	19	18	16
		2007/08	11	10	10
		2008/09	12	9	9
		2009/10	10	[4]—	[4]—
Church ward	Leighton Park School	2005/06	80	76	68
		2006/07	81	77	70
		2007/08	94	92	87
		2008/09	79	75	72
		2009/10	71	68	64
	Reading Girls' School	2005/06	129	64	55
		2006/07	109	49	42
		2007/08	127	67	61
		2008/09	131	62	48
		2009/10	128	98	57
Katesgrove ward	Kendrick Girls' Grammar School	2005/06	95	95	95
		2006/07	94	93	93
		2007/08	n/a	n/a	n/a
		2008/09	n/a	n/a	n/a
		2009/10	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Kendrick School	2005/06	n/a	n/a	n/a
		2006/07	n/a	n/a	n/a
		2007/08	97	97	97
		2008/09	95	94	94
		2009/10	92	92	92
Redlands ward	Phoenix College	2005/06	9	[4]—	[4]—
		2006/07	7	[4]—	[4]—
		2007/08	13	0	0
		2008/09	14	0	0
		2009/10	9	[4]—	[4]—
	Reading School	2005/06	124	124	124
		2006/07	125	125	125
		2007/08	123	123	123
		2008/09	124	124	124
		2009/10	123	123	123
	St Joseph's Convent School	2005/06	35	34	31
		2006/07	36	35	35
		2007/08	29	27	26
		2008/09	18	25	25

Achievements at GCSE and equivalent for pupils[1, 2] at the end of key stage 4 by school in Reading local authority— Years: 2005/06 to 2009/10—Coverage: All schools[3]

			Total number of pupils at the end of KS4	*Number of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades*	*Number of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSEs*
		2009/10	n/a	n/a	n/a
	St Joseph's College	2005/06	n/a	n/a	n/a
		2006/07	n/a	n/a	n/a
		2007/08	n/a	n/a	n/a
		2008/09	n/a	n/a	n/a
		2009/10	33	33	32
	The Abbey School Reading	2005/06	100	100	100
		2006/07	104	104	104
		2007/08	105	105	105
		2008/09	97	96	96
		2009/10	109	109	109
Southcote ward	Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School	2005/06	143	75	54
		2006/07	149	68	44
		2007/08	140	71	47
		2008/09	136	83	46
		2009/10	127	102	43
	The Elvian School	2005/06	25	18	18
		2006/07	20	17	2
		2007/08	30	19	17
		2008/09	21	18	15
		2009/10	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Prospect College	2005/06	263	113	64
		2006/07	n/a	n/a	n/a
		2007/08	n/a	n/a	n/a
		2008/09	n/a	n/a	n/a
		2009/10	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Prospect School	2005/06	n/a	n/a	n/a
		2006/07	292	161	95
		2007/08	230	158	84
		2008/09	201	149	72
		2009/10	181	147	77
Thames ward	Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre	2005/06	163	79	74
		2006/07	189	105	86
		2007/08	183	99	93
		2008/09	180	124	109
		2009/10	225	146	117
	Queen Anne's School	2005/06	65	65	63
		2006/07	54	52	9
		2007/08	51	51	0
		2008/09	35	36	0
		2009/10	53	51	0
Tilehurst ward	The Avenue School	2005/06	20	0	0
		2006/07	9	[4]—	[4]—

Achievements at GCSE and equivalent for pupils[1, 2] at the end of key stage 4 by school in Reading local authority— Years: 2005/06 to 2009/10—Coverage: All schools[3]

			Total number of pupils at the end of KS4	Number of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades	Number of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSEs
		2007/08	10	[4]—	[4]—
		2008/09	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
		2009/10	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
Whitley ward	John Madejski Academy	2005/06	n/a	n/a	n/a
		2006/07	60	18	4
		2007/08	73	34	17
		2008/09	78	43	14
		2009/10	100	58	28

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] Pupils at the end of key stage 4 in each academic year.

[2] In 2010 iGCSEs, accredited at time of publication, have been counted as GCSE equivalents and also as English and mathematics GCSEs.

3. School figures include all schools, whilst ward figures include maintained schools (including CTCs and academies) only. For this reason, data for some schools is not included in the ward table, and also pupil numbers in schools do not always sum up to the total number of pupils in the ward.

[4] Figures not shown in order to protect confidentiality.

Source:

School and College Performance Tables (final data)

Home Education

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many hours per week of home tuition was provided on average to pupils under alternative provision in each local authority area in the latest period for which figures are available. [58582]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 9 June 2011]:* The Department for Education does not collect data on this issue. It is for local authorities to determine whether a pupil should have home tuition and, if so, the number of hours that is appropriate for that pupil. Department for Education guidance sets out that pupils who cannot attend school because of ill-health should receive a minimum of five hours home tuition each week but that they should be offered as many hours as they can cope with, up to full-time education.

We have taken measures to commence section 3A of the Children, Schools and Families Act 2010 from September 2011. This section re-defined the section 19 duty, to the effect that the education should be full-time for all pupils in alternative provision, unless there are reasons which relate to the physical or mental health of the child which would mean that this would not be in the child's best interests. Until now, only permanently excluded pupils have had an entitlement to full-time provision.

IBM

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many contracts his Department holds with IBM; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58692]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not hold a current contract with IBM but it did make a payment of £97,563 to them in this financial year for a licence agreement to use their software for the majority of the Department's analytical requirements.

Primary Education: Admissions

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what powers the governors of a state primary school have to increase the intake of that school; and if he will make a statement. [58289]

Mr Gibb: Whether the governors of a maintained school have the power to increase its intake will depend on the category of the school concerned. School admission arrangements are set and applied locally by the relevant admission authority. For community and voluntary controlled schools the admission authority is usually the local authority (LA), for foundation and voluntary aided schools it is the governing body and for Academies it is the Academy Trust.

Under the Code currently in force, all schools must have a published admission number (PAN) for each 'relevant age group' in which pupils are, or would normally be, admitted to the school. The PAN forms part of the admission arrangements for the school and, as such, must be consulted on with their local community. Admission authorities of maintained schools must set admission numbers with regard to the capacity assessment for the school. Once an admission number has been set by the admission authority, maintained schools should not admit children above the PAN without the agreement of the local authority.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education launched a 12 week consultation on 27 May 2011 on a revised Schools Admission and Appeals Codes. As part of that consultation, we intend to make it easier for all schools, particularly those that are popular with parents, to increase their PAN, and thereby offer more places to parents.

Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 628-32W, on research, whom he has consulted on the decision to reduce funding for *(a)* the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England, *(b)* the National Evaluation of Sure Start

Impact Study and *(c)* the Understanding Society programme. [58313]

Mr Gibb: The Department engages in an analytical planning process that involves consultation with a range of interested parties in the wider research and academic communities. Prioritising funding for longitudinal data collections is included in that process and each of the studies highlighted will have been considered in this process.

The Longitudinal Study of Young People in England

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) was consulted about the Department's decision to stop funding the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England. The Department made the decision because the age of the cohort (now 20 to 21 years old) takes it outside the remit of the Department. Discussions are continuing with the ESRC about maintaining contact with the cohort in the longer term and adding more information via data linkage.

The National Evaluation of Sure Start Impact Study

Funding for the National Evaluation of Sure Start (NESS) Impact Study has not been reduced. The existing contract was intended to support the completion of assessments of the children at seven years old. The Department has decided not to continue the study beyond this survey of children at seven years of age, as it was designed to look at the impact of the former Sure Start Local Programmes. The current Sure Start Children's Centre model is different from the earlier programmes and the Department is continuing to fund the new Evaluation of Children's Centres in England (ECCE).

Understanding Society

The Department felt that it was important to support the initial development of Understanding Society. However, there had been a commitment that this funding would be ongoing.

Schools: Admissions

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the merits of extending the exception in paragraph 2.44 of the Schools Admission Code to include ministers of religion. [59405]

Mr Gibb: Paragraph 2.44 of the School Admissions Code requires school admission authorities to treat the children of UK service personnel and other Crown servants posted overseas as being resident in their area as soon as they have proof of posting. This is to ensure that such children do not suffer any disadvantage in the admissions system as a result of their frequent mobility. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education launched a 12 week consultation that will run until 19 August, and we will consider any evidence submitted through that consultation as to the merits of extending the exception to include ministers of religion.

Schools: Hearing Impairment

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the level of provision of video relay services in schools for the hearing impaired. [58822]

Sarah Teather: The Department for Education has not made an assessment of the level of provision of video relay services in special schools for pupils with hearing impairments. It is for individual schools to decide whether video relay service, or other assistive technologies and forms of support, might be the most appropriate means for facilitating communication and learning in the classroom for individual pupils.

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of deaf pupils in schools in England. [58824]

Sarah Teather: The available information is shown in the following table.

This includes pupils with a hearing impairment ranging from those with a mild hearing loss to those who are profoundly deaf. It is not possible to differentiate between types of hearing impairment.

Maintained nursery, maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools and pupil referral units[1, 2, 3]—Number of pupils whose type of special educational needs (SEN) is hearing impairment[4, 5, 6]—As at January 2010 in England

	Number of pupils with hearing impairment[4, 5, 6]		
	School Action Plus	*Statement of SEN*	*Total*
Primary SEN type	9,145	6,440	15,585
Secondary SEN type	1,725	1,820	3,545
Total	10,865	8,260	19,125

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Includes solely registered pupils. In pupil referral units, includes pupils registered with other providers and further education colleges.

[5] Pupils at School Action Plus and those with a statement of SEN provided information on their primary need and, if appropriate, secondary need.

[6] Includes pupils with a hearing impairment ranging from those with a mild hearing loss to those who are profoundly deaf. It is not possible to differentiate between types of hearing impairment.

Notes:

1. Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.
2. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent parts and their totals.

Source:

School Census

Schools: Work Experience

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* state schools and *(b)* academies have operated work experience programmes for whole year groups in each of the last three years. [58833]

Mr Gibb: These data are not collected centrally or locally.

However, the Education Business Partnership services annual data return does provide information on type and duration of work experience placements for young people. In academic year 2009/10, the latest year for which data are available, some 527,000 pupils undertook around 532,000 work experience placements (the figures indicating that some pupils undertook more than one placement).

The majority of placements were for Year 10 students (78.4%) with Year 11 students accounting for 17.1% of placements and 4.5% of placements being for post-16 students. Over half (55%) of students undertook work experience placements lasting 10 days or more.

Teachers: Arts

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* music, *(b)* art and *(c)* drama teachers were working in schools in the academic year (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; and how many he expects to be working in schools in 2011-12. [58502]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 9 June 2011]:* Information on the qualifications and deployment of teachers in the secondary sector was collected in the annual School Workforce Census, which took place in November 2010 for the first time. The number of teachers reported to be teaching music, drama and art in November 2010 is given in the table.

Number (headcount) of music, art and drama teachers[1] in all publicly funded secondary schools— Position in November 2010—Coverage: England

Subject	*Headcount of in-service teachers*	*Of these, teachers holding a relevant[2] post A-level qualification*
Music	7,500	6,500
Drama	11,100	5,500
Art and Design	13,200	11,400

Base: 158,004 teachers to years seven-13 (unweighted headcount).

[1] Teachers were counted once against each subject that they were teaching, regardless of the amount of time they spend teaching the subject.

[2] A full list of what was deemed as a 'relevant' qualification subject for each curriculum subject taught can be found on the School Workforce Statistical First Release website here.

Note:

1. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

School Workforce Census

In previous years information on the deployment of teachers was collected via the Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey (SSCSS), an occasional survey most recently run in 1992, 1996, 2002 and 2007. However, due to low sample sizes and variations in the methodology used to collect information in each of the SSCSS surveys, the numbers of teachers between years are not directly comparable.

The number of teachers that schools employ in future years will, as now, be a matter for them to decide, according to local needs and subject to statutory requirements on class sizes where appropriate. For funding purposes, the Department has produced overall estimates of teaching posts in state schools and academies in England.

The Government do not produce estimates of the future numbers of teaching posts in particular subjects. Estimates of the proportion of teachers working in secondary schools who will be qualified in different subjects are however produced as part of the Department for Education's teacher supply and demand modelling process.

Estimates for the future number of specialist music teachers in state funded secondary schools indicate that there will be a decrease of around 100 by 2011/12. A similar decrease is expected in the number of specialist art teachers. This is in line with a decreasing requirement for secondary teachers as a result of the ongoing decline in secondary pupil numbers.

Separate forecasts have not been made for drama teachers. For the purposes of teacher supply modelling, English and drama are treated as one subject category.

HEALTH

Action on Smoking and Health: Finance

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether funding allocated to Action on Smoking and Health by his Department may be used for lobbying purposes by that body. [59718]

Anne Milton: Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) has received funding from the Department in the past, through the Department's 'Section 64 General Scheme of Grants to voluntary and Community Organisations'. ASH received these grants specifically to carry out defined projects.

None of this funding was, or could be used, for lobbying purposes.

Art Therapy

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many art therapists were engaged to work in NHS hospitals in each of the last three years; and what estimate he has made of the number of such therapists engaged to work in hospitals in each of the next three years. [59566]

Mr Simon Burns: It is not possible to split the NHS Information Centre Workforce Census figures between hospital and non-hospital based staff. The following table gives the number of qualified art, music, and drama therapists employed in NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in the years requested, as it is not possible to isolate art therapy staff from this group.

National Health Service Hospital and Community Health Services: qualified art, music, drama therapy staff employed in England by organisation type as at 30 September 2010

			Headcount
	2008	*2009*	*2010*
All qualified art/music/drama therapy staff	758	737	691
Primary care trusts	107	89	80
Trusts	651	648	616

Notes:

1. It is not possible to split Workforce Census figures between hospital and non-hospital based staff. It is generally assumed that those staff based in NHS Trusts are engaged in more hospital based work.
2. It is not possible to isolate art therapy staff from the art, music, drama therapy area of work. 2010 headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components.
3. Staff may work in both a PCT and a trust, therefore they will be counted once in a trust and once in a PCT, however for the headcount figure for England they will only be counted once.
4. The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the Census publication at: www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/010_Workforce/nhsstaff0010/Census_Bulletin_March_2011_Final.pdf.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care 2010 Non-Medical Workforce Census.

It is for local NHS organisations, with their knowledge of the health needs of their local populations to employ the staff required that best meets those needs in future years.

Care Quality Commission: Manpower

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the Care Quality Commission has *(a)* reduced its staffing levels and *(b)* removed its learning disability experts. [59693]

Mr Simon Burns: The following information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Reductions in the CQC's staffing levels have focused mainly on management posts and headquarter functions rather than frontline posts, 2,078 employees transferred to the CQC from its legacy commissions. The current establishment of the CQC is 1,924.

To manage the new registration system the CQC restructured its field force in the summer of 2010. This restructure allowed the CQC to focus its resource towards the frontline and resulted in the CQC removing a layer of middle management and increasing inspector autonomy and accountability.

The CQC has not reduced its frontline headcount.

The CQC has also advised it never had a dedicated learning disability expert post. However, the CQC has a learning disability committee to advise it. This committee will include learning disability experts.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what strategic framework his Department has developed for the delivery of its core functions during the comprehensive spending review period. [59727]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the Department's functions will change as a result of the modernisation process. We will be reviewing the Department's Operating Model to determine which functions the Department should continue to fulfil, and which should be moved to other organisations. It is therefore likely that some functions will be transferred to other organisations and the Department will take on some new ones. The exact timing and nature of these changes will not be confirmed until decisions have been taken about the precise role and structures of all the organisations in the new system.

Diabetes: Eyesight

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has any plans to develop a NHS outcomes indicator for diabetic macular oedema. [59262]

Mr Simon Burns: We have no current plans to develop an indicator for diabetic macular oedema. In developing "The NHS Outcomes Framework 2011-12", we selected outcomes and indicators with a view to creating a balanced set of national outcome goals, which reflect the breadth of treatment activity for which the national health service is responsible. It is therefore not possible to include outcome indicators for all specific diseases and long-term conditions.

Although there is not a specific outcome indicator for diabetic macular oedema in the NHS Outcomes Framework, we would expect progress to be captured under Domain 2: Enhancing the quality of life for people with long-term conditions. This domain of the framework seeks to capture those outcomes that an individual with any long-term condition would consider important. In addition, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Quality Standard for Diabetes in adults will help to improve outcomes for people with diabetic macular oedema.

Diabetes: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diabetes specialist nurses were practising in the Peterborough Primary Care Trust area in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [59365]

Mr Simon Burns: The employment of diabetic specialist nurses is a matter for the national health service locally and as such, the information requested is not centrally collected.

The hon. Member may wish to contact Peterborough Primary Care Trust direct.

General Practitioners

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the monetary value to GP practices of *(a)* smoking cessation services, *(b)* contraceptive services and *(c)* other locally-enhanced services commissioned by primary care trusts was in (i) the first quarter of 2011 and (ii) the last quarter of 2010. [59486]

Paul Burstow: Pricing of individual local enhanced services is a local matter for determination and no detailed information is collected or held centrally. However, aggregated financial returns from primary care trusts (PCTs) from the 2009-10 final accounts show total expenditure on local enhanced services by PCTs was £339 million.

Final audit returns for 2010-11 will be available later this summer, and is expected to continue to show overall increased expenditure by PCTs on local enhanced services. The position for this year (2011-12) is too early to predict and will not be definitively known until after the close of the financial year when audited accounts are submitted by PCTs.

Health Services: Ex-servicemen

Mrs Mensch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the rate of travel and subsistence reclaimable by war pensioners from the NHS is; and on what date the rates were most recently changed; [59362]

(2) whether he has considered the merits of increasing the rate of subsistence reclaimable by war pensioners from the NHS. [59363]

Paul Burstow: Patient transport and healthcare travel cost support from the national health service is available to all eligible NHS patients and is not a specific allowance for war pensioners or Armed Forces Compensation Scheme recipients. The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) has a scheme to reimburse hospital travelling expenses to war pensioners.

NHS non-urgent transport is provided via Patient Transport Services (PTS) that are maintained by NHS Commissioners (primary care trusts). These are generally booked by relevant secondary or community services medical professionals. Eligibility for non-urgent transport is based upon clinical need and is available free to all NHS patients.

The Healthcare Travel Cost Scheme (HTCS) is designed to help with travel costs and arrangements for all NHS patients on low incomes. The HTCS is for those who do not medically require PTS but require help in meeting the cost of travel to and from NHS medical care. The HTCS is means tested for low-income earners, with those on a range of low-income benefits automatically entitled. This scheme is constituted under the National Health Service (Travelling Expenses and Remission of Charges) Regulations 1988 as amended.

The HTCS will reimburse all or some of the travel costs depending on eligibility. If the patient is entitled to qualifying benefits or allowances they will get back the full travel costs by using the cheapest form of public transport available, including any concessions or promotions. If the patient uses a private car, a claim for petrol and car parking charges where unavoidable, can be made at the mileage rate specified under the local HTCS. Rates are determined locally.

The HTCS will apply for war pensioners receiving treatment for conditions other than those for which they receive a war pension. It does not apply in cases where war pensioners obtain treatment for conditions caused by service for which they are in receipt of a war pension. In those cases, expenses may be met by the SPVA who will apply their eligibility criteria to individual cases. The SPVA align their travel allowances with those of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). The HMRC have not changed these allowances since 2007 and therefore the SPVA allowances have also remained constant.

Hospitals: North West England

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the North West Strategic Health Authority, *(b)* Warrington and Halton NHS Trust and *(c)* others on potential hospital mergers in the North West. [59345]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to her on 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 428-41W, by the Minister of State, Department of Health, the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Paul Burstow).

No formal discussions have taken place between Ministers and the North West Strategic Health Authority, Warrington and Halton NHS Trust and others focusing on potential hospital mergers in the North West of England.

However, in relation to NHS trusts in the north-west seeking to obtain foundation trust status, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health met my hon. Friend the Member for Altrincham and Sale West (Mr Brady) on 8 June 2011 about Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust.

Additionally, I met the hon. Members for Copeland (Mr Reed) and Workington (Tony Cunningham) on 5 April 2011 and my hon. Friend the Member for Penrith and The Border (Rory Stewart) on 17 May 2011 about North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust.

Maternity Services: Manpower

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the shortfall in maternity-related health workers and professionals nationally; and if he will make a statement. [59406]

Anne Milton: It is the responsibility of local national health service organisations to plan and deliver a workforce appropriate to the needs of their local population, based on clinical need and sound evidence.

The Centre for Workforce Intelligence, which was established to provide advice and information to the NHS on workforce matters, has been commissioned to report on the maternity workforce during 2011-12 to inform future local workforce planning and commissioning decisions.

Meat Hygiene

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has made an assessment for benchmarking purposes of the level of charges to abattoirs for regulation of meat hygiene controls in other European countries. [59317]

Anne Milton: Policy responsibility for meat hygiene controls lies with the Food Standards Agency (FSA). We are advised by the FSA that a recent study undertaken for the European Commission on fees collected by the member states to cover the costs of official food controls, including meat hygiene controls, identified significant variation in the charging systems and charging rates across the European Union (EU). The Commission subsequently started a review of EU charging rules, to which the FSA is actively contributing. The Commission is expected to reach a conclusion in the first quarter of 2012.

Mental Illness: Health Education

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve public understanding of mental health issues. [59628]

Paul Burstow: One of the key objectives of the cross-Government mental health strategy "No Health Without Mental Health", is that fewer people will experience stigma and discrimination and that public understanding of mental health will improve. As a result, negative attitudes and behaviours to people with mental health problems will decrease.

Comic Relief and The Big Lottery have funded a major anti-stigma campaign, "Time to Change", led by Mind and Rethink and evaluated by the Institute of

Psychiatry. The programme of 35 projects aims to inspire people to work together to end the discrimination surrounding mental health.

We know, from discussions with voluntary and private sector organisations, that there is an appetite for an even more ambitious programme. We will give this 'social movement' our full support, and active participation and are in discussion now with Mind to decide how the "Time to Change" programme may evolve in the future.

NHS: Redundancy

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people employed by *(a)* Warrington Primary Care Trust and *(b)* the North West Strategic Health Authority have taken voluntary redundancy in the last 12 months; and what the total cost to the public purse of these redundancies was. [59344]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the number of voluntary redundancies for Warrington Primary Care Trust and the North West Strategic Health Authority is only available for the period June 2010 to March 2011. Data from the electronic staff record show there have been no voluntary redundancies in either organisation over this period.

NHS: Reorganisation

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse of his listening exercise on NHS reform has been. [59825]

Paul Burstow: Up to 13 June 2011 the costs invoiced for the NHS Listening Exercise was £36,640.97. This includes costs relating to the expenses incurred by the 45 NHS Future Forum members and to the rest of the Listening exercise, for example national, regional and local listening events and Future Forum meetings.

The sums have been met from the Department's allocated budget.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans to publish a revised estimate of the likely cost of his proposals for NHS reorganisation; [59826]

(2) what plans he has to reexamine the cost of the proposed reorganisation of the NHS. [59827]

Paul Burstow: The Government will publish a revised impact assessment for the Health and Social Care Bill in due course, reflecting the changes we propose to make in response to the NHS Future Forum.

Organ Donor Register Review

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made in implementing each of the recommendations in Professor Sir Gordon Duff's review of the organ donor register. [59368]

Anne Milton: Professor Sir Gordon Duff made a number of recommendations addressed to NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), which were designed to ensure that the Organ Donor Register (ODR) reflects more clearly the wishes of those registered and that confidence in the system is maintained. NHSBT has been taking action to implement the recommendations and good progress has been made. For example, NHSBT is in the process of scoping and costing a new future operating model for the ODR as recommended. NHSBT will issue a formal response to Professor Sir Gordon Duff's report in the autumn.

Organs: Donors

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the reasons next of kin do not consent to organ donation. [59370]

Anne Milton: Following the publication of the Organ Donation Taskforce report in 2008, the Department convened an Organ Donation Commissioning Research Group to explore where there remained gaps in knowledge in relation to organ donation. The Group concluded that there would be benefits in commissioning further research into factors that influence a bereaved family's decision regarding organ donation.

The Department has worked in partnership with the national health service and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) to fund studies into these issues. This includes:

the Donation, Transplantation and Ethnic Minorities (DonaTE) programme. This work is being undertaken by Kings College London and funded through a NIHR Programme Grant for four years from October 2009 (£863,000). The programme aims to increase the rates of donation among South Asian and African-Caribbean ethnic minorities, through researching attitudes and barriers to organ donation within these communities. This will then help to inform the development of a training programme which will increase health care professionals' confidence and competence in conducting consent conditions with ethnic minority families; and

the Family Attitudes Towards Donation programme. This work is being undertaken by the University of Wolverhampton and aims to gain a better understanding of the factors that influence a family's decision regarding organ donation from a United Kingdom population perspective. The Department has provided £182,000 to support this work, which we anticipate will be completed by spring 2013. The findings will further help inform training for healthcare professionals in approaching families and the organ donation service design.

Osteopathy

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the standardisation of collection of data on osteopathic treatments; and if he will make a statement. [59263]

Anne Milton: It is the responsibility of local national health service organisations to make decisions on the commissioning and funding of complementary and alternative therapies, including osteopathy treatments, taking account of issues to do with safety, clinical and cost-effectiveness and the availability of suitably qualified/regulated practitioners. A search of the Department's database has not shown any recent parliamentary questions or correspondence on the standardisation of collection of data on osteopathic treatments.

Pharmacy

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the monetary value to community pharmacists of *(a)* smoking cessation services, *(b)* contraceptive services and *(c)* other locally-enhanced services commissioned by primary care trusts was in (i) the first quarter of 2011 and (b) the last quarter of 2010. [59485]

Paul Burstow: Enhanced services such as stop smoking and sexual health services are commissioned from community pharmacies by primary care trusts to meet local need. The level of payment for such services is determined locally and information on the value of these contracts is not collected centrally.

Royal London Hospital for Integrated Medicine

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure the future of the Royal London Hospital for Integrated Medicine as an NHS centre for research into the effectiveness of complementary and alternative medicines. [59688]

Mr Simon Burns: Researchers at the Royal London Hospital for Integrated Medicine can apply to the Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) for research funding. The NIHR welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health, including complementary therapies. These applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made.

Scarborough Hospital: Television

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information his Department holds on the NHS facilities which have been made available for the purpose of making television programmes at Scarborough hospital; what fee has been paid to the Hospital Trust by the television company or companies concerned; and how many members of staff are involved in supporting or appearing on television in respect of this programme; [59710]

(2) which *(a)* rooms, *(b)* wards and *(c)* other facilities at Scarborough hospital are being used by a television company for the purposes of recording television programmes; and if he will make a statement; [59711]

(3) what information his Department holds on the number of hours spent by staff employed at Scarborough hospital on assisting in the production of television programmes; and if he will make a statement. [59712]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not routinely collect information on filming arrangements made between national health service trusts and television companies. Agreements of this nature are a matter for the NHS locally and as such, my right hon. Friend may wish to approach the chief executive of Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust, which may hold some relevant information.

Social Services: Finance

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures are in place to monitor expenditure by local authorities on social care. [59742]

Paul Burstow: Local government expenditure on social care is collected annually by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care, through the personal social services expenditure (PSS EX1) return.

Social Services: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Peterborough constituency were in receipt of local authority funded *(a)* domiciliary social care, *(b)* professional support, *(c)* day care and *(d)* short-term residential placements in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [59352]

Paul Burstow: Information for the Peterborough constituency is not collected centrally.

The NHS Information Centre collects and publishes information on the number of adults (aged 18 and over) in receipt of local authority funded community based services.

The following table shows information for Peterborough council. We are informed by the Information Centre that data have been collected on a consistent basis between 2004-05 and 2009-10, but is not available for the years prior to this.

Numbers of people aged 18 and over in receipt of local authority funded services from Peterborough council by type of service, 2004-05 to 2009-10

	2004-05[1]	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[2]
All community based services[3]	5,405	4,920	5,010	5,800	4,935	5,340
Home care	1,455	1,640	1,850	2,645	2,190	2,035
Day care	635	955	560	650	640	530
Short term residential[4]	0	0	0	295	290	285
Professional support	1,785	880	2,030	1,420	840	910

[1] In 2004-05 the guidance was restated so that only people receiving services following an assessment were recorded, and therefore information prior to this is not comparable.

[2] In 2009-10 the way that service users who were receiving council commissioned services via a personal budget or direct payment changed and they were only included under the personal budget and/or existing direct payments column and not under the specific service received.

[3] The total number of people receiving services is the number of people receiving one or more services in the year and therefore will not be the sum of the figures as double counting across service types may occur. The breakdown of services is provided for those stated in the question and is not a complete list of services provided.

[4] Short term residential care is defined as the provision of short term residential care for the client for any purpose other than respite care of a carer. It includes the provision of rehabilitation services. In 2007-08 the guidance regarding the definitions of 'short term residential—not respite' was restated to ensure that respite was not included in this column, this may have impacted on the data for this category.

Source:

Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care, form P2f

Southern Cross Healthcare

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* residents and *(b)* members of staff in Scotland who may be affected by any failure of Southern Cross to meet its financial obligations; [59245]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on the financial situation of Southern Cross; [59246]

(3) what criteria he plans to adopt in determining whether the Government will intervene in the financial situation of Southern Cross; [59247]

(4) whether he plans to take steps to resolve the financial situation of Southern Cross; [59248]

(5) what contingency plans he has put in place to minimise disruption to residents and staff should Southern Cross enter administration. [59249]

Paul Burstow: Departmental officials are in regular contact with their counterparts in the Scottish Assembly Government and I spoke to Nicola Sturgeon, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing Scotland, on 14 June 2011, regarding this matter.

No estimate has been made of the numbers of residents and members of staff of Southern Cross care homes who might be affected if the company could not meet its financial obligations.

This is a sensitive issue, which is currently the subject of commercial negotiations. It would not be appropriate or helpful to speculate on what might happen. We consider this issue should be fully capable of resolution by the private sector and look to Southern Cross, its landlords and those with a stake in the business to put in place a plan to ensure the company is placed on a sound footing.

We are ensuring, through our discussions with Southern Cross, landlords and the banks, that everyone involved understands their collective responsibility towards the residents.

Nevertheless, all parties involved are ready to take decisive action if the current plans do not create a viable platform for the future. In England, we have been working closely with the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services to ensure arrangements are in place in the event of any need.

Tobacco

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will meet tobacco manufacturers to discuss his Department's publication Healthy Lives, Healthy People: a Tobacco Control Plan for England; and if he will publish a note of the discussions at each such meeting. [59741]

Anne Milton: The Government takes very seriously the United Kingdom's obligations as a Party to the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). The FCTC places obligations on parties to protect the development of public health policy from the vested interests of the tobacco industry. We have made our commitment to this very clear in Chapter 10 of "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: a Tobacco Control Plan for England" our Tobacco Control Plan for England.

A copy of the plan has already been placed in the Library.

Transplant Surgery

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the NHS Blood and Transplant Strategic Plan 2011-2014, what plans his Department has to integrate the commissioning and funding of retrieval and transplantation teams across the UK; [59366]

(2) what consideration his Department has given to the merits of including in provider contracts for NHS acute services a requirement for the provider to demonstrate a commitment to increasing organ donation; [59371]

(3) whether his Department plans to include organ donation in *(a)* the commissioning for quality and innovation payment framework and *(b)* quality accounts. [59372]

Anne Milton: The Department will make sure that measures to increase organ donation are appropriately incorporated into the new arrangements for the Department and the national health service as this is established.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Diamond Jubilee 2012

Pete Wishart: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects to announce the outcome of the Diamond Jubilee city status competition. [59575]

Mr Harper: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 1 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 77WS.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 16 June 2011

PRIME MINISTER

Children and Families Taskforce

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Prime Minister what progress the Children and Families Taskforce has made since its establishment. [60129]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Tottenham (Mr Lammy) on Tuesday 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 696W.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Prime Minister from whom he has *(a)* requested and *(b)* received legal advice relating to actions which can be undertaken under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973; and if he will publish any such advice received. [59798]

The Prime Minister: The Attorney-General and departmental legal advisers provide advice to the Government on legal issues. A Government note on the legal basis for deployment of UK forces and military assets following adoption of UNSCR 1973 was deposited in the House Libraries on 21 March 2011. The Government do not comment on ongoing advice, nor publish it, as to do so would impinge on its ability to seek such advice.

Sir Brian Souter

Mr MacShane: To ask the Prime Minister whether the Honours and Appointments Secretariat received any communication from the Scottish National Party in support of the nomination for an award of Sir Brian Souter. [60044]

The Prime Minister: Confidentiality is fundamental to the integrity of the honours system. Nominations for any award are handled in complete confidence. The Honours and Appointments Secretariat in the Cabinet Office does not comment on individual cases.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Heritage Lottery Fund

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many charities in Brighton, Kemptown constituency have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received awards from the Heritage Lottery Fund in each year since its establishment. [59058]

John Penrose: Since the Heritage Lottery Fund was established 28 applications have been received from, and 20 awards made to, charities in the Brighton, Kempton constituency. A breakdown can be found in the following table:

	Applications	*Awards*
1994-95	0	0
1995-96	0	0
1996-97	1	0
1997-98	0	0
1998-99	1	0
1999-2000	0	0
2000-01	1	1
2001-02	2	2
2002-03	1	0
2003-04	5	5
2004-05	2	2
2005-06	3	3
2006-07	3	3
2007-08	1	0
2008-09	5	1
2009-10	3	3
2010-11	0	0
Total	28	20

The data cover the period 1 April 1994 to 31 March 2011 and relate only to awards where the applicant organisation identified itself as having charitable status. It therefore may not include all awards that benefited local community/voluntary organisations.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many charities in St Albans constituency have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund in each year since its establishment. [59195]

John Penrose: Since the Heritage Lottery Fund was established 15 applications have been received from, and 11 awards made to, charities in the St Albans constituency. A breakdown can be found in the following table:

	Applications	*Awards*
1994-95	0	0
1995-96	0	0
1996-97	1	1
1997-98	0	0
1998-99	1	0
1999-00	2	1
2000-01	0	0
2001-02	1	1
2002-03	1	1
2003-04	1	1
2004-05	2	1
2005-06	2	2
2006-07	1	1
2007-08	1	1
2008-09	2	1
2009-10	0	0
2010-11	0	0
Total	15	11

The data cover the period 1 April 1994 to 31 March 2011 and relate only to awards where the applicant organisation identified itself as having charitable status. They therefore may not include all awards that benefited local community/voluntary organisations.

Languages: EU Law

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he next plans to publish a periodical report on the UK's responsibilities under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. [57148]

Mr Lidington: I have been asked to reply.

The report is due for submission to the Council of Europe (CoE) in May 2012. It will be published on the CoE website.

Libraries

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what legislation governs the provision of local library services; and if he will make a statement. [59046]

Mr Vaizey: Local authorities have the primary duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 to provide a library service which is based on local need and which addresses that need in a "comprehensive and efficient" manner.

The Secretary of State has a duty under the same Act to superintend and promote the improvement of public library services provided by local authorities, and to secure that local authorities properly discharge their duties.

There are no proposals to remove the duty on local authorities to provide a comprehensive and efficient public library service.

Listed Buildings

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has considered the merits of introducing a right for property owners to appeal against decisions regarding listing buildings. [58979]

John Penrose: In England property owners and interested parties already have this right. They may seek a review of a listing decision within 28 days of the decision being made. Guidance including criteria is available on the Department's website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/historic_environment/3330.aspx

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has assessed the merits of introducing a right for property owners to be consulted before the awarding of listed building status. [58980]

John Penrose: Property owners are already consulted before a listing decision is made, except occasionally when there is an urgent or immediate threat to the building. This Department and English Heritage regard consultation as very important in ensuring that listed building decisions are based on the best evidence available as to the building's historic and architectural interest.

Local Broadcasting: Radio

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what support he is providing for local radio stations. [59860]

Mr Vaizey: The Media Ownership (Radio and Cross Media) Order 2011, which came into force on 15 June 2011, reduces regulation on the ownership of local stations to promote a more viable sector. We also intend to examine the regulatory regime for local radio in the forthcoming Communications Review.

Members: Correspondence

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Warrington North of 18 May 2011. [60121]

John Penrose: On 7 June my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport and I wrote to all hon. Members on the sale of the Tote. This letter covered the issue raised in the hon. Member for Warrington North's letter of 18 May.

Museums and Galleries

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the proportion of public *(a)* museums and *(b)* art galleries which are open on Sundays. [59875]

Mr Vaizey: The 21 DCMS sponsored museums and galleries have a total of 51 branches. Of these 33 out of 38, or 87% of museums and 10 out of 12, or 83% of art galleries are open on Sundays. One museum is only open seasonally during the summer.

The Department does not keep a log of opening times for other art galleries and museums. All institutions have operational independence from central Government on matters such as opening hours.

Royal Parks

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has any plans to review the prohibition of cycling in parts of London's Royal Parks. [58854]

John Penrose: The Royal Parks provides designated areas across its estate for cycling and continues to do all it can to support considerate cycling. In providing facilities it seeks to balance the wishes of cyclists with those of pedestrians and other park users.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Westminster Hall Sittings

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Leader of the House what steps he plans to take to enhance the profile and status of debates in Westminster Hall. [60134]

Sir George Young: The Government consider Westminster Hall to be an important forum in which Members of the House can hold the Government to account. In June 2010, the Government established the Backbench Business Committee to give individual Members greater access to the parliamentary agenda. Since that point, the Government no longer play any role in selecting topics for debate in Westminster Hall. It is now for the Backbench Business Committee, the Liaison Committee and individual Back-Bench Members to ensure that Westminster Hall continues to accommodate topical and well subscribed debates.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

ICT

Stephen Mosley: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what consideration the House of Commons Commission has given to the merits of redistributing used IT equipment to charitable organisations. [59640]

John Thurso: This matter was last considered shortly before the 2005 general election. The House received advice that accounting regulations required the recovery of the residual value of publicly-funded assets when they were disposed of. For that reason the possibility of charitable donation was not pursued and the IT equipment was resold after having any data and software removed.

Printing Machinery

Duncan Hames: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what assessment the House of Commons Commission has made of the whole life value for money of arrangements for procurement of desktop printers for hon. Members' offices and the House of Commons Service. [59848]

John Thurso: Before the last election PICT was asked to select a range of printers from which Members could choose. The printers had to be capable of using the House's relatively heavy embossed paper and envelopes. The assessment included evaluation of the full-life cost of the printers. Six printers were selected, including black and white, colour and multi-function devices. Members and their staff were invited to view and test the models before a final decision was made. The printers are procured through contracts that have been subject to full EU competitive tenders, thereby ensuring their pricing is competitive. The House also uses these contracts to meet its requirements for printers for the House Service.

TREASURY

EU Economic Policy

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has made to the European Commission on the sovereignty of EU member states in matters of taxation. [59808]

Mr Gauke: The UK Government engage with the European Commission on a regular basis and has consistently emphasised our commitment to upholding member states' tax sovereignty.

Income Tax: Oxfordshire

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* Oxfordshire and *(b)* Oxford West and Abingdon constituency will (i) have their income tax payments reduced and (ii) cease to pay income tax in (A) 2011-12 and (B) 2012-13. [59664]

Mr Gauke: The June 2010 Budget announced a £1,000 cash increase in the personal allowance for under 65s to £7,475 in 2011-12 (£820 above the previous Government's plans), with the benefits focussed on individuals on low and middle incomes through accompanying changes to the basic rate limit and national insurance upper earnings and profit limits.

The 2011 Budget announced a £630 cash increase in the personal allowance for under 65s to £8,105 in 2012-13 (£240 above indexation), with an equivalent reduction in the basic rate limit to leave the higher rate threshold unchanged.

As a result of these measures, the Government estimate that 22.6 million basic rate taxpayers will benefit in 2011-12, among which 830,000 of the lowest income taxpayers will be removed from tax altogether.

In 2012-13 the Government estimate that 25 million taxpayers will benefit, among which 260,000 of the lowest income taxpayers will be removed from tax altogether.

These estimates are based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes, projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook.

Reliable estimates are not available at county or parliamentary constituency level, due to greater uncertainties in projections for small geographical areas and small sample sizes.

Railways: East Midlands

Chris Williamson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect contribution to (i) the economy and (ii) the public finances of the rail technology industry in (A) the east midlands and (B) Derby. [58773]

Danny Alexander: HM Treasury has not made an assessment of the direct or indirect contribution to the economy or public finances of the rail technology industry in the east midlands and Derby as it does not have micro-economic data to this sectorial and regional level.

Government policy and decisions on railway investment are the responsibility of the Department for Transport.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 493W, on HM Revenue and Customs: manpower, what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) change plan for 2011 on levels of employment at HMRC Cumbernauld. [60056]

Mr Gauke: HMRC's change plan has focused on projected staffing levels across its lines of business and not across individual office locations such as Cumbernauld. HMRC is confident that the staffing reductions required can be met through natural wastage and by the redeployment of people into new roles or different business streams. As always, HMRC will do everything it possibly can to avoid compulsory redundancies.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Civil Nuclear Constabulary: Manpower

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* police officers and *(b)* staff in the Civil Nuclear Constabulary in (i) 2010, (ii) 2011, (iii) 2012, (iv) 2013 and (v) 2014. [60172]

Charles Hendry: On 31 March 2010 the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) employed 832 police officers and 140 police staff—which includes firearms training instructors plus training and armoury personnel. On 31 March 2011 this was 826 and 156, respectively. Details on the roles, responsibilities and composition of CNC are contained in the Civil Nuclear Police Authority's (CNPA) annual reports and strategic plans which are available on

http://www.cnpa.police.uk/

Security arrangements at all civil nuclear sites are kept under constant review as part of a continuous process to ensure existing arrangements are robust and effective. There is an ongoing uplift in the operational capacity of the CNC which will see an increase in CNC police numbers by 31 March 2012. The CNC uplift is addressing the range of priorities articulated by the Government in order to meet the risks faced by the UK that were contained in the strategic defence and security review, and this is expected to lead to ongoing increases in CNC police officers beyond 2012.

Electricity

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what steps he has taken in relation to skills, organisational capacity and supply chain barriers to investment in the new energy market; [58390]

(2) what plans he to discuss skills, organisational capacity and supply chain barriers to investment in the new energy market capacity with ministerial colleagues. [58391]

Charles Hendry: My colleagues and I recognise the potential benefits to the UK economy of the new energy market and the contribution that skills will make to this. My officials are working with BIS and DEFRA on a project, Skills for a Green Economy, to consider the demand for, and supply of, green skills across the economy with a view to determining the need for additional actions. The project findings are due to be published before the autumn. Alongside this, reforms to make the skills system more flexible and responsive to demand will help the skills system to react appropriately to new and changing skills needs.

Where supply chains and skills are a barrier to particular projects, individual policy teams are taking bespoke action with input from a diverse set of stakeholders, including several other Government Departments, academia and industry, in order to mitigate and resolve these.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has issued guidance on the application of the Holford rules for overhead electricity connection and transmission schemes; and if he will make a statement. [60086]

Charles Hendry: The Government consider that the Holford rules are an important part of the framework for routeing new overhead electricity lines and taking mitigating actions. As such the rules are directly quoted in the revised draft National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Inclusion in EN-5 means that, for planning applications, the Infrastructure Planning Commission must take them into account. The Government are currently finalising the energy National Policy Statements.

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to increase competition in the energy market by limiting the market share of any one company to not more than 10 per cent. [60128]

Charles Hendry: We have no plans to take the steps the right hon. Member mentions.

The energy regulator Ofgem already monitors the market closely to ensure market transparency, including reporting quarterly on retail prices and requiring suppliers to publish segmental financial reports. Ofgem has recently consulted on proposals to improve the consistency of these reports.

Ofgem has also put forward proposals to tackle barriers to effective competition (such as tariff complexity and low wholesale market liquidity). In addition Government are cutting red tape for smaller suppliers to boost competition in retail markets.

Energy: Housing

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what requirements there will be for installers who wish to participate in *(a)* the Green Deal and *(b)* the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme to join an accreditation scheme; and if he will make a statement. [59962]

Gregory Barker: We have appointed the British Standards Institute (BSI) to develop an overarching standard by the beginning of next year which all installers will have to meet if they wish to participate in the Green Deal. This will include any relevant standards required under the RHI. We have appointed the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS) to then accredit the existing trade certification bodies to ensure their members wishing to install Green Deal measures meet this standard from April 2012.

To be eligible for the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme, all non-domestic biomass, ground and water source heat pumps and solar thermal installations of 45 kWth capacity or less, will need to be installed by installers certified under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) scheme or equivalent schemes such as Solar Keymark for solar thermal.

The Government believe owners of larger installations are more likely and able to obtain the necessary expertise to guide their choices to ensure high quality installations and value for money, so we will not be requiring the same standards for installations larger than 45 kWth in the RHI.

We will introduce support for domestic installations from autumn 2012 and are currently considering what eligibility criteria should apply. No final decisions have been taken and the criteria, including whether installers will be required to have MCS certification, will be published for consultation at the end of the year.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials in his Department at each grade have responsibility for the *(a)* formulation and *(b)* implementation of policy on the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000; what the job objectives of each such official are; what objectives they have been set for the next six months; and if he will make a statement. [60625]

Gregory Barker: The Department has three officials, supported by senior management, working specifically on the Fuel Poverty Strategy and the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act. A further six officials manage the delivery of the Warm Front scheme.

In addition, other officials work on a range of policies within the Department that impact on fuel poverty, including domestic energy efficiency, Warm Home Discount and data sharing. The fuel poverty review, being carried out by Professor John Hills, is supported by a small secretariat staffed by officials.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the operation of *(a)* section 1 and *(b)* section 2 of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 since August 2010; what recent representations he has received on the operation of the Act; and whether he has considered the merits of (i) amending and (ii) repealing the Act. [60660]

Gregory Barker: The Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000, defines the term and those experiencing fuel poverty.

Professor Hills is chairing an independent Review of fuel poverty assessing fuel poverty from first principles, looking at its causes, its effects and how best to measure it. The Review will publish interim findings in the autumn and a final response in January 2012.

Fuel Poverty

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of households in *(a)* Southend West constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England are in fuel poverty; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [60661]

Gregory Barker: In the year 2008, the latest year for which data are available, the number of households living in fuel poverty in the Southend West constituency was estimated to be 4,500. This is equivalent to around 12% of households in Southend West.

The respective figures for Essex were 82,000 households (12%) and 3.3 million households (16%) in England.

The Annual Report on Fuel Poverty, including the figures for 2009, will be published on 14 July.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the *(a)* training and *(b)* expertise of engineers to (i) design, (ii) commission and (iii) operate the range of pressurised water reactor nuclear power plants proposed for construction in the UK. [60062]

Charles Hendry: Last year the Government commissioned Cogent, the Sector Skills Council for Nuclear, to produce the 'Next Generation: Skills for New Build Nuclear' report looking at the impact of industry's plans to develop new build nuclear on the nuclear workforce.

The report identified that there were some skills that were at particularly high risk of not being available to meet the needs of industry plans to deliver 16GW by 2025. These included design and manufacturing engineers.

The report identified a series of mitigating actions to address these gaps and DECC co-ordinates the Nuclear Energy Skills Alliance (made up of the chief executives of the key skills bodies responsible for delivery) to monitor and review progress in addressing these issues.

As part of the licensing and permitting regime for UK Nuclear sites, operators are required to demonstrate to the Regulators that only suitably qualified and experienced persons perform duties which may affect the safety of operations.

Nuclear Power Stations: Flood Control

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to ensure adequate sea defences for nuclear reactors at sea level. [59612]

Charles Hendry: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, asked the UK Chief Nuclear Inspector Dr Mike Weightman to provide a report to the Government on the implications of the unprecedented events in Japan and the lessons to be learned for the UK nuclear industry. This interim report was presented on 18 May.

Dr Weightman's interim report gives a clear indication that the UK's current safety regime remains robust and therefore, so far as is reasonably practicable, the levels of protection currently in place, including sea defences, are appropriate compared to the level of risk to ensure safety at the UK's nuclear power plants.

The Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) ensures that nuclear operators comply with the UK's robust regulatory requirements so that the risks are reduced as low as is reasonably practicable. Part of the regulatory regime establishes a licensing regime which is the most restrictive regulatory approach available other than prohibition. As part of the licensing regime licensees are required to re-view and re-assess the safety of their plants periodically and systematically. Periodic safety reviews (PSRs) which are normally carried out on a 10 yearly cycle, are normally placed in the public domain once the regulator agrees that the findings have met the safety requirements.

Peak Oil

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans his Department has to address the challenges posed by peak oil. [60100]

Charles Hendry: Although we do not subscribe to a particular view on when oil production is likely to peak, we recognise that there are significant challenges for investment in future oil production and that there is a role for governments to play in working towards enhancing energy supplies and reducing demand for fossil fuels.

On investment, we are working domestically and with international partners to reduce barriers to timely and adequate investment in the oil sector. We also work on enhancing oil price stability and ensuring that market participants have the confidence to make the necessary and timely investments by working internationally to improve transparency in the physical and financial oil markets.

Furthermore, our climate change, energy efficiency and energy security policies will not only reduce the UK's carbon emissions, but will also reduce security risks associated with our use of fossil fuels and will help to ease our demand for oil.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has considered the merits of *(a)* reducing the level of public subsidy for onshore wind energy production and *(b)* increasing the level of such subsidy for other renewables. [59819]

Charles Hendry: A banding review of Renewables Obligation support for all technologies began in October last year and any change to the support levels, including for onshore wind, will be considered as part of this process. Banding reviews ensure that as market conditions and innovation within sectors change and evolve, developers continue to receive the correct level of support necessary to maintaining investment in the renewables industry.

We will consult on the new bands this summer, with the Government response published in late autumn. Any changes in support levels will come into effect on 1 April 2013 (1 April 2014 for offshore wind).

Solar Power

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to policies to support solar photovoltaic schemes above 50 kilowatts; and if he will make a statement. [60216]

Gregory Barker: The recent fast-track review of Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) considered the level of support available to solar photovoltaic (PV) projects of more than 50 kilowatts (kW). The outcome of the review was announced on 9 June 2011 and confirmed that FITs support for solar PV of more than 50kW would be reduced from 1 August 2011. Further details on this are available at

www.decc.gov.uk/fits

A comprehensive review of FITs is also currently under way which is considering all aspects of the scheme.

Solar PV projects of more than 50kW are also eligible for support under the renewables obligation (RO), and currently receive two renewable obligation certificates per megawatt hour of electricity generated. A scheduled banding review of RO support for all technologies began in October last year and any change to the support levels will be considered as part of this process. RO banding reviews ensure that as market conditions and innovation within sectors change and evolve, developers continue to receive the appropriate level of support necessary to maintaining investment in the renewables industry. Any changes in support levels will come into effect on 1 April 2013 (1 April 2014 for offshore wind).

Undergrounding Transmission Lines

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the KEMA and Institution of Engineering and Technology report on the cost of undergrounding transmission lines to be published; and what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the report. [60085]

Charles Hendry: I expect the final analysis on the costs of undergrounding transmission lines to be published later this year. Insufficient data was provided to KEMA during the course of the study to enable them to produce a report that KEMA was satisfied with or that the Institution of Engineering and Technology, in its quality assurance role, could endorse. Further work will therefore be required to gather more data in order to produce an authoritative analysis of this complex technical topic. It has been agreed that KEMA's work on the study has concluded, and an announcement will be made once the process and time scales for this next stage of the work are established.

Wind Power: Subsidies

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of subsidies paid for electricity generated by wind power in the last

12 months for which figures are available; and what estimates his Department has made of the cost for each of the next 10 years. [58877]

Charles Hendry: The renewables obligation (RO) is currently the Government's main mechanism for incentivising large scale renewables deployment. Under this mechanism the subsidy awarded to wind power in 2009-10 was approximately £522 million[1].

Since April 2010, small-scale wind generation has been eligible for subsidy under the Feed-in Tariff (FITs) scheme. Ofgem, who administers the scheme, is due to report on expenditure under the scheme later in the year.

We are currently reviewing the level of support for all renewable technologies, and will consult on any changes to the renewables obligation (RO) bands this summer. We are also undertaking a comprehensive review of FITs, and a consultation on this is due to be published later this year.

The recent Electricity Market Reform (EMR) consultation set out proposals for a new scheme to support all low carbon technologies. As part of this consultation we consulted on the best means to transition from the RO to the new scheme. We will include further details on the transition and assessments of the options for reform in the White Paper to be published later this year.

DECC calculations suggest that the level of wind needed to meet the UK 2020 renewable energy target through the RO, FITs and the Climate Change Levy Exemption (estimates in 2010 prices undiscounted) imply a subsidy of over £5 billion in 2020. The Government do not set targets for individual energy generation technologies but takes a market-based approach to generation.

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[1] This figure uses the nominal value (equal to the buyout price plus recycle value) of a renewable obligation certificate (ROC) for 2009-10. The nominal value represents the maximum worth of a ROC to a generator but is not necessarily the amount paid by a supplier, which is dependent on bi-lateral negotiations between supplier and generator.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Sewage

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of *(a)* the practice of treating productive agricultural land with powdered human effluent and *(b)* its potential impact on human health; and if she will make a statement. [59699]

Mr Paice: Biosolids (also known as sewage sludge, and which can include treated human effluent) are an important means of improving soil and have been used in agriculture for many years. Current EU legislative limits on metals in sludge-treated soils are designed not only to protect human health, but crop growth and livestock health as well. In addition, the water industry and producers using sludge follow The Safe Sludge Matrix guidance developed by scientists, retailers and producers, which prevents the transfer of pathogens to food crops. It is worth noting that sludge is not used in powdered form but is applied as granules or cake.

Angling

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 540-1W, on angling, whether the Sea Angling 2012 research project will take account of the findings of the report by Drew Associates entitled Research into the Economic Contribution of Sea Angling, commissioned by her Department in 2003. [60249]

Richard Benyon: The Sea Angling 2012 project will include a study of the economic value of recreational sea angling in England, and one of the intentions is to determine if the economic value has changed compared to the figures for the early 2000s given in the Drew report commissioned almost a decade earlier. The new economic survey will be designed using a generally similar approach to that adopted in the Drew report, so that direct comparisons can be made.

Animal Welfare

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the principal Government web pages are that cover *(a)* welfare for food and farm animals, domestic pets and wildlife and *(b)* scientific animal research; what steps the Government takes to co-ordinate policy on animal welfare; and if she will make a statement. [59681]

Mr Paice: The main Government web pages that cover welfare for food and farm animals, domestic pets and wildlife, and scientific animal research are:

Farms

http://www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/animals/welfare/

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/layer?topicId=1083732033

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Environmentandgreenerliving/Smallholders/index.htm

http://www.defra.gov.uk/fawc/

Domestic pets

http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/cruelty/

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/HomeAndCommunity/InYourHome/AnimalsAndPets/index.htm

Wildlife

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/layer?topicId=1083731993

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Environmentandgreenerliving/Thewiderenvironment/Protectingwildlife/DG_180360

http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/zoos/circuses/

Devolved Administrations

http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/animalwelfare/?lang=en

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/AnimalWelfare

http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/animal-health.htm

Scientific animal research

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/animal-research/

In relation to co-ordination of policy on animal welfare, DEFRA Ministers and officials have appropriate meetings and discussions with colleagues across Government where the welfare of animals is a concern.

Circuses: Animal Welfare

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions officials of her Department have had with officials of the European Commission on wild animals in circuses since her appointment; and on what dates. [57643]

Mr Paice: There has been one substantive discussion with the Commission and opportunities to keep in touch on the issue in the context of other regular meetings.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what strategic framework her Department has developed for the delivery of its core functions during the comprehensive spending review period. [59729]

Richard Benyon: I refer the right hon. Member to DEFRA's Business Plan for 2011-15, published in May 2011.

E. coli: Germany

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether UK farmers will receive EU compensation as a result of the E. coli outbreak in Germany. [59737]

Mr Paice: The outbreak has had a disruptive economic impact on growers and others within the supply chain for fruit and vegetables across the EU, including our domestic industry. Because of this, the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 7 June discussed the need for exceptional measures to address the market situation and to provide financial support for growers affected. Proposals were discussed by Ministers at Council level and considered by officials at the EU Fruit and Vegetables Management Committee, but no package has yet been agreed for implementation. Discussions will continue on 14 June.

We are discussing with the Rural Payments Agency the implications of the proposed €210 million EU measures, and how a scheme would be implemented. We are also discussing this with the NFU and other relevant trade associations.

Fisheries

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of the information her Department holds on *(a)* the individuals or bodies who hold UK fisheries quota and *(b)* those who hold UK quota who are not actively involved in fisheries. [60122]

Richard Benyon: Information in terms of the holdings of Fixed Quota Allocation (FQA) units by members of each UK fishermen's producer organisations is available as part of the information released each year as part of the process of allocating the overall UK quota out to various parts of the industry. The latest information available is on holdings as at 1 January 2010 used to distribute quotas for 2010, and it is available from the Marine Management Organisation's internet site at:

http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/fisheries/management/quotas.htm

Similar information for the position as at 1 January 2011 is currently being finalised as part of final allocations of quotas for 2011.

These reports do not include details of holdings by individuals. Such information would include personal data as defined in Section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998 as information relating to living persons, and thus disclosure would breach the principles within the Act. In addition, the information requested is effectively details of a commercial (or personal) asset held by the owner and is thus regarded as commercially sensitive, in that if others gain knowledge of their quota ownership (or possibly lack of ownership), it may potentially affect business agreements they might enter into.

The commercial sensitivity and personal nature of the information also prevents the provision of information on those who hold UK quota who are not actively involved in fisheries. In addition, a significant proportion of quota is held by producer organisations themselves on behalf of their members or other individuals. The actual beneficial holder of the quota is known by the producer organisation involved but this information is not routinely collected by fisheries administrations. As such it is not possible to determine to what extent these holdings may be held by those who are not actively involved in fishing.

An exercise was carried out in 2007 to look at the details on the ownership of the quota allocation units held by producer organisations on behalf of others. This indicated that for the total holdings of FQA units in the UK, the proportion held by producer organisations (PO) themselves rather than linked to individual vessels was 18.6%. Of this, 3.1% was being held by the PO itself on behalf of its members as a collective asset, 5.5% on behalf of individual active members of the PO, 4.4% held on behalf of vessels' agents or salesmen, 2.0% held as part of Community Quota Schemes and 3.5% on behalf of other types of owner.

National Policy Statement

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has any plans to issue a draft National Policy Statement for waste management. [58825]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA intends to publish a draft National Policy Statement on hazardous waste for public consultation this summer. We have no plans to publish a more general National Policy Statement on waste management.

Ports: Morecambe

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what restrictions apply to proposals to develop an inshore locked boating marina in Morecambe. [59232]

Richard Benyon: Following a thorough search of systems, we are unable to find any information on proposals to develop an inshore locked boating marina in Morecambe. We therefore cannot confirm what restrictions would apply to such proposals.

Radioactive Materials

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the results are of monitoring measurements carried out by or notified to the Health Protection Agency of *(a)* concentrations and *(b)* activities of (i) plutonium, (ii) uranium and (iii) other actinides (A) since 20 March 2011 and (B) between 1 January 2011 and 19 March 2011. [59531]

Richard Benyon: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) runs a small environmental radioactivity surveillance programme in the UK. The most recent published results are for 2007 and 2008 and can be found on the HPA website. The results for 2009 will be published shortly. The main objective of the HPA programme is to provide data typical of the UK against which site specific data can be compared and to provide independent evidence that can be used in support of queries about the impact of radioactivity in the environment. Some limited monitoring of plutonium levels in air is carried out but no analyses are routinely done for uranium or actinides other than plutonium. No measurement data are currently available for the period 1 January 2011 to 19 March 2011.

The sites used by the HPA across the UK for its surveillance programme were used to monitor activity concentrations in air following the release of radioactivity to atmosphere from the Fukushima plant in Japan. The frequency of collection of air samples was increased and a very high volume air sampler at HPA's Chilton site in Oxfordshire was also deployed. The air samples collected were analysed for a wide range of radionuclides. All the results from the air samples taken from 20 March 2011 onwards have been published in the Fukushima updates on the HPA website. No other radionuclides have been measured using the very sensitive monitoring equipment which can pick up trace levels of radionuclides in air and other environmental materials. Some air filters were further analysed using radiochemical techniques for isotopes of plutonium and strontium-90. Only background levels of plutonium were found, which are consistent with levels routinely measured by HPA at Seascale in Cumbria; strontium-90 was not detected.

The Environment Agency, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Northern Ireland Environment Agency also deploy High Volume Air samplers at locations in Scotland, Northern Ireland, England and Wales. Results of the routine monitoring carried out using the samplers are reported in "Radioactivity in Food and the Environment" publications. During the Fukushima event, filters were collected and analysed weekly and the results sent to HPA for collation and publication on its website.

Rivers

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to preserve river and stream flows in the summer of 2011; and if she will make a statement. [60130]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency monitors and reports river flows throughout England and Wales. Where rivers are at risk during dry weather, the Environment Agency can support their flows using augmentation schemes—it currently operates a number of such schemes. It can also protect rivers, and the wildlife they support, by restricting abstractions during a drought. Under Section 57 of the Water Resource Act 1991, it has the power to alter the right to abstract on some agricultural licences under specific predefined conditions to protect the environment. The Environment Agency manages the use of Section 57 powers carefully, taking into consideration local circumstances, along with consultation with those potentially affected.

Water Power

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to ensure that micro-hydro schemes do not adversely affect *(a)* stream courses and *(b)* the upward and downward migration of fish. [60132]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency regulates the installation of hydropower schemes in England and Wales. Its Good Practice Guidelines set standards to protect the environment, including maintaining adequate stream flows and screening turbines to prevent fish from entering them. The guidelines require the inclusion or improvement of fish and eel passes where necessary.

The Good Practice Guidelines are being reviewed by the Environment Agency. As part of that review it will be launching a public consultation in July 2011, which will be available on its website at

www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

Water: South East England

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the merits of the introduction of hosepipe bans as a response to drought conditions in the south-east. [59786]

Richard Benyon: No water companies in England currently have restrictions in place. Most water companies are reporting that they have sufficient reserves of water and do not predict the need for restrictions on use this summer.

Restrictions on non-essential uses of water due to a shortage, commonly known as hosepipe bans, enable companies to save water at an early stage. In doing so they help to defer or avoid the need for more stringent restrictions that would have a greater impact on customers, businesses and the environment.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peace Negotiations

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has contributed *(a)* funding and *(b)* staff to the development of the Afghan High Council for Peace. [60118]

Alistair Burt: The international community provides support to the work of the High Peace Council (HPC) through the UN's Salaam Support Group and ISAF's Force Reintegration Cell. The FCO has donated £5 million to the Peace and Reintegration Fund—established to support the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme. Of this donation, £1 million has been used to support the HPC's budget. The FCO has not contributed staff to the HPC.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of progress in tackling inter-ethnic tension in Afghanistan since 2005. [60119]

Alistair Burt: We are in close contact with the UN and the Afghan Human Rights Commission who have pressed the Government of Afghanistan to find a long-term solution to the problem of inter-ethnic tension.

In response to annual clashes between Hazaras and Kuchis over grazing rights, UK officials met with representatives of both communities to encourage them to engage in dialogue and find a solution to this issue.

We have not carried out a specific assessment of inter-ethnic tensions, but the UK Human Rights Report covers a range of relevant human rights concerns in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the timetable for drawing down US forces in Afghanistan. [56323]

Mr Hague: I am in regular contact with Secretary Clinton about the situation in Afghanistan. I met her most recently during her visit to the UK on 23 May 2011.

Australia: Indigenous Peoples

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assistance his Department has given for the repatriation of Australian indigenous human remains. [59034]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply.

The repatriation of Australian indigenous human remains from UK collections is an issue for those holding the remains to consider. However, I am strongly of the view that Australian indigenous remains should be returned wherever possible. I recently met the Australian High Commissioner and representatives of the Torres Strait Islands to discuss the repatriation of human remains. I have also met representatives of several UK collections with major holdings of human remains, including the Director of the Natural History Museum to congratulate him and his museum colleagues on their decision to return 138 human remains to the Torres Strait Islands.

Bahrain: Motor Sports

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the FIA on proposals to stage a Formula 1 race in Bahrain in 2011. [59328]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 13 June 2011]:* The decision on whether to hold the Grand Prix in Bahrain in 2011 is one entirely for the FIA. This is not a decision for HM Government and we have not made representations to the FIA regarding their decision.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, observed in this House that Formula 1 had failed to account for public opinion when it announced that the Grand Prix would go ahead. This reflects the attention which the world has been paying to recent events in Bahrain. It is clear that the world is watching Bahrain, and expects further progress on political reform and on the National Dialogue recently announced by the King.

British Council

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* the Russian Federation, *(c)* India and *(d)* China who are aware of the work of the British Council in each country. [56394]

Mr Hague: In the financial year 2010-11, the British Council estimates the number of people made aware of its work in each of the following countries was as follows:

China—163 million
India—113 million
The Russian Federation—25 million.

They were made aware of the British Council via the following channels:

Active involvement in programmes and services
Digital means
Publications and broadcast on TV and radio
Media and press coverage of their work.

Publication and broadcast coverage for Brazil is not currently available. The estimated total made aware of British Council work by other means in Brazil is 85 million.

Caribbean: Cultural Relations

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to build closer cultural ties with states in the Caribbean. [59765]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have strong cultural ties with the Caribbean which this Government are committed to maintaining and developing further. We have missions in Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, St Lucia, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Cuba and Belize. We also have a British Council presence in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. Our decision not to close any of our missions in the region during this Government reflects our commitment to a maintaining a close engagement with the Caribbean states.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office also provides academic scholarships for individuals in the Caribbean as part of the Chevening Scholarship programme. This programme helps the UK maintain its academic ties with the region and develop our cultural links. The 2012 Olympics will provide further opportunities to build on our cultural and sporting links. Our high commission in Kingston has already had some initial contact with the Jamaican authorities about plans for a 'Jamaica Village' in London during the 2012 Olympics. We expect these and other contacts to increase during the coming year.

Caribbean: Overseas Trade

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to support trade and investment into British overseas territories in the Caribbean. [59766]

Mr Bellingham: The Government take their responsibilities towards the Overseas Territories (OT) very seriously and all Government Departments have a role to play according to their policy expertise. The importance of trade to the Overseas Territories is referred to in the Government's Trade and Investment White Paper published in February this year.

Trade promotion and investment is one of the areas of responsibility devolved to the Overseas Territories. OT Governors do not promote UK exports because of their constitutional role as Head of the OT Government. However, they and the FCO work with elected Territory Governments to encourage good governance and financial industry regulation in order to make them more attractive for inward investors.

Egypt: Politics and Government

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to support the parliamentary election process in Egypt. [59533]

Alistair Burt: There has been sustained high-level British Government engagement in support of the democratic transition process in Egypt, including visits from the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and myself. Our embassy has on-going discussions with the Egyptian Government about the process.

The UK has committed £1.2 million bilaterally under the Arab Partnership to support the political transition through a range of programmes, including to strengthen political participation and the public voice. In this context, we have organised a series of seminars in Egypt targeting young political activists and a number of visits to the UK, including for officials from the Ministry of Interior to observe the UK 5 May referendum; for a delegation of senior judges and the head of the Judicial Committee for Political Parties; and for prominent revolutionary activists planning to establish their own political parties.

The EU has offered a package of short-term assistance, which includes support for elections and civil society and political capacity building. EU direct assistance requires a formal Government request which has not yet been received. But the European Action Service is working up measures to support civil society.

Israel: OECD

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 830W, on Israel: OECD, on what dates the OECD study team quantifying the effects on Israeli macroeconomic statistics of the inclusion of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank has met in 2011; what input the UK representative has provided to the team; and what sources of economic data independent of the Israeli Government have been used. [58031]

Alistair Burt: The OECD Study Team comprises national experts from Australia, Norway and the UK, together with OECD officials in Paris, and has been holding regular conference calls on the review since December 2010. A fact-finding visit was made to Israel by OECD officials in January 2011 and the Study Team has recently visited Israel to discuss its findings with the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). The Study Team will be reporting to OECD's Committee on Statistics later in June. The UK representative has played a full and active part in the review process, advising on issues arising and contributing to production of the final report. The Study Team has utilised data provided by the CBS for the review: it would not have been practicable to draw on extraneous data.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the implications of the Hamas Charter for the Middle East peace process; [60174]

(2) what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to press Hamas to accept the Quartet principles and to participate in the Middle East peace process; and if he will make a statement; [60175]

(3) what steps he is taking to press Hamas to renounce violence, recognise the state of Israel and accept previous diplomatic agreements. [60176]

Alistair Burt: As I have consistently made clear, most recently to the House on 9 June, Hamas Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades remains a proscribed terrorist organisation in the UK and the whole of Hamas is listed on the EU's Asset Freeze Regime. Hamas must abandon violence and commit to a two state solution, and we call again for the immediate release of Gilad Shalit.

As Hamas seeks to agree with President Abbas the composition of an interim Palestinian Authority I have also made it clear that the UK will judge a future Palestinian Government by its actions and its readiness to work for peace. The new Palestinian Authority should be composed of independent figures on the basis that President Abbas set out on 4 May. As was the case with the outgoing Authority, it should uphold the principle of non-violence, be committed to a negotiated two-state solution, and accept previous agreements of the PLO.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcome was of the Government's recent discussions with the government of the Russian Federation on the position of Tamils in Sri Lanka. [57324]

Mr Lidington: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has not held such discussions with Foreign Minister Lavrov nor have there been any recent discussions with the Government of the Russia Federation on the position of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. Ministers and officials regularly engage with the Government of Sri Lanka and international partners about supporting reconciliation between Sri Lanka's communities.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on negotiations between the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil National Alliance; and if he will make a statement. [59630]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 15 June 2011]:* The UK supports the dialogue between the Sri Lankan Government and Tamil National Alliance (TNA) and we have encouraged both sides to engage constructively. During my visit to Sri Lanka in February, I met members of the TNA and discussed progress with them and separately with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister. The most recent talks were held on 12 May and we understand a further round of talks will take place on 23 June.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of *(a)* shooting by forces aligned to Sudanese armed forces in Kadui, *(b)* northward movements of Sudan People's Liberation Army soldiers, *(c)* flights of Antonov planes over Kadulli and *(d)* other violent incidents in South Kordofan. [59685]

Mr Bellingham: We are very concerned at the latest reports of violence in South Kordofan, which include continued fighting in Kadugli and aerial bombardments in several locations across the state. The British embassy in Khartoum and the consulate general in Juba remain in daily contact with their UN colleagues to ensure they are kept abreast of the most up to date reports. We have seen unconfirmed reports of the Sudan People's Liberation Army moving north. These reports are very worrying, and we urge both parties to de-escalate the situation and return to the negotiating table.

Uganda: Human Rights

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the Government of Uganda on alleged human rights abuses by Ugandan security forces. [60240]

Mr Bellingham: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) gave to the hon. Member for Glasgow Central (Anas Sarwar) on 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 588W.

TRANSPORT

British Transport Police: Manpower

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* police officers and *(b)* staff in the British Transport Police in (i) 2010, (ii) 2011, (iii) 2012, (iv) 2013 and (v) 2014. [60246]

Mrs Villiers: Responsibility for setting staff numbers and budgets for the British Transport police rests with the British Transport police authority.

The figures for 2009-10 to 2011-12 are shown as follows.

BTP—staff numbers

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Police officers	2,901	2,896	2,834
PCSOs	340	316	328
Police staff	1,431	1,417	1,440
Total	4,672	4,629	4,602

The headcount figures beyond that date are not known as the budgets have not yet been agreed.

Community Budgets

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues about Government plans for community budgets; and if he will make a statement. [59713]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 15 June 2011]:* No specific discussions have been held with ministerial colleagues about the proposals for community budgets and their relationship with transport policy.

Railways: Theft

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of cable theft on the number of train delay minutes on the railway network in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [58007]

Norman Baker: My Department has not made such an assessment as this is in the first instance a matter for Network Rail the infrastructure owner. However I recognise that cable theft can affect the smooth operation of the railway and am presently discussing the issue with relevant parties. The hon. Member may wish to contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for further information:

David Higgins
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG

HEALTH

Care Quality Commission

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will establish a public inquiry into the operation of the Care Quality Commission including the adequacy of its resources for the functions it is required to undertake and the role of its chief executive following recent incidents in Mid-Staffordshire Hospital and Winterbourne View Care Home. [60126]

Mr Simon Burns: A number of inquiries are under way following the abuse exposed at Winterbourne View. The Government are clear that any failings in care are unacceptable. These inquiries include both an independently-chaired Serious Case Review led by South Gloucestershire council which will examine all the agencies involved and reviews by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the national health service and the safeguarding boards.

The Department, assisted by Mark Goldring, chief executive of Mencap, will then draw together the key lessons from these reviews. Once we have all the facts and have examined the results of the various inquiries, we will report further to Parliament.

The CQC has a budget settlement for 2011-12 that has been agreed with the Department. The CQC's financial position is kept under constant review during the year.

The CQC itself is responsible for appointing the chief executive and setting the chief executive's performance objectives.

E. coli

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will discuss with the British Retail Consortium and its members measures to ensure that the UK horticulture industry is not undercut by the export to the UK of cheap surplus stocks from *(a)* Spain and *(b)* other EU member states arising from the recent E. coli outbreak in Germany. [59478]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 13 June 2011]:* I have been asked to reply.

We regularly keep in touch with industry organisations who have valuable insight into the current market and supply chain.

The E. coli outbreak has had a disruptive economic impact on growers and others within the supply chain for fruit and vegetables across the EU, including our domestic industry.

At retail level, prices for domestically produced salad (lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet peppers and courgettes) have remained relatively stable, although demand continues to decline. As a result more produce is being sent to the wholesale market, which is experiencing consequential price movements. Surplus EU produce has been directed to alternative EU markets, including our own, with similar consequences for prices, although I understand that prices for English produce are faring better than those for imported produce. But the situation continues to develop and the latest indications from our trade organisations are that the market continues to remain depressed, which is not helped by retail demand for salad crops in particular being sensitive to the weather.

However, the welcome news that the Russian Federation has lifted its ban on imports of fruit and vegetables from the European Union is an important development, which should start to alleviate the pressure on volumes and prices being experienced on the domestic market.

General Practitioners: Rural Areas

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason a GP in a rural area may not dispense drugs for patients resident within a mile of the GP practice. [59657]

Mr Simon Burns: Under the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005, if a pharmacy opens in a rural area, or if an area is no longer considered rural, general practitioners (GPs) are required to reduce their dispensing unless the area is designated as a "reserved location" (where both the pharmacy and the doctors can dispense). Specifically, doctors can no longer dispense to patients who live within 1.6 kilometres of the new pharmacy or who live in a non-rural area. This change can take effect immediately, but can also be phased in if the primary care trust considers that would benefit patients more ("gradualisation").

Without these rules, it would rarely be viable for new pharmacies to open in rural areas. That would deprive people living in rural areas of the opportunity to benefit from the more comprehensive health service that a combination of a GP practice and a pharmacy offers.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the potential health risk to humans of genetically-modified crops and animal feed. [59778]

Anne Milton: All genetically-modified (GM) foods to be marketed in the European Union, as well as animal feed, are subject to a mandatory pre-market safety assessment under the GM food and feed Regulation (EC) No.1829/2003 before they can be permitted to enter the food chain. This safety assessment is carried out on a case by case basis and is the responsibility of the European Food Safety Authority.

The safety evaluation of GM food and feed is based on a rigorous scrutiny of scientific data. No GM product would be authorised if, after it was evaluated, it was considered unsafe. GM products that are authorised in the EU have been examined under these procedures, have been judged to be as safe as their non-GM counterparts and pose no additional risk to the consumer.

Health and Social Care Bill 2010-11

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to set out to the NHS the likely effect on the NHS of any amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill proposed by the Government. [60057]

Mr Simon Burns: This week, we set out our response to the NHS Future Forum report. We are taking people with us and we will carry on listening and working together for the good of the national health service.

We will bring forward more detailed proposals on how we will implement these changes, including amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill, shortly.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 430W, on the Health and Social Care Bill, whether he now plans to re-commit the Health and Social Care Bill to a Public Bill Committee. [60123]

Mr Simon Burns: As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health, announced in his oral statement, on 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 644-47, the Government will ask the House to recommit the relevant parts of the Health and Social Care Bill to a Public Bill Committee shortly.

Health: Housing

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the health effects of poor housing standards. [59412]

Anne Milton: Officials in the Department have discussed the health effects of poor housing standards, in particular the annual published Heatwave Plan and draft Cold Weather Plan, with officials in the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Infant Mortality: Research

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of the funding allocated by his Department for health research was allocated to research on *(a)* maternal and *(b)* foetal health in each of the last five years; [59760][1]

(2) what proportion of the funding allocated by his Department for *(a)* maternal and *(b)* foetal health research was allocated to research into stillbirth prevention; [59761]

(3) how much his Department has spent on research into *(a)* the causes and prevention of stillbirth, *(b)* sudden infant death syndrome and *(c)* preventing neonatal deaths in the last 10 years for which figures are available. [59762]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department funds research through both the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Policy Research Programme (PRP).

Estimated spend by the NIHR and PRP relating to maternal and foetal health is as follows.

	Estimated spend on maternal and foetal health research (£ million)	*Estimated spend on maternal and foetal health research as a proportion of total NIHR revenue and PRP spend (percentage)*
2006-07	4.4	0.6
2007-08	4.7	0.6
2008-09	9.0	1.1
2009-10	10.9	1.2
2010-11	12.7	1.3

The Department does not hold specific figures for the proportion of funding allocated to research into stillbirth prevention, preventing neonatal deaths or sudden infant death syndrome.

The Government fund a range of research of relevance to maternal and foetal health, including stillbirth and sudden infant death syndrome.

For example, the Department's Policy Research Programme has funded a Policy Research Unit in Maternal Health and Care at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU), University of Oxford. Research themes include pregnancy loss, perinatal morbidity, maternal morbidity and maternal mortality.

The Department also funds research relevant to stillbirth. For example, through an NIHR Programme Grant for Applied Research, the Department is funding a study entitled "Improving Pregnancy Outcomes in Obese Women". Running from 2008 to 2012, this study aims to develop an individually tailored "life style" programme for obese women.

Furthermore, the NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre has an ongoing programme of research on women's health. A major focus of this research is understanding the determinants of stillbirth risk and using this understanding to improve clinical care of pregnant women.

In addition, the Government currently fund the Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries (CMACE), which publishes an annual report into perinatal mortality. CMACE monitors changes in perinatal mortality rates, and identifies causes and risk factors. In addition to providing a national overview, CMACE also provides localised information to enable maternity units to review and monitor their own rates so that action can be taken to improve services.

Medical Treatments: Innovation

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the means by which the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence takes account of innovation in its health technology assessments. [59764]

Mr Simon Burns: As an independent body, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is responsible for the development of its technology appraisal methods and processes which are periodically reviewed and consulted upon.

In January 2009, NICE commissioned Professor Sir Ian Kennedy to conduct an independent study into how NICE appraised the value of innovation. NICE published its response to Professor Kennedy's recommendations in June 2010 and further information is available at:

www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/howwework/researchanddevelopment/KennedyStudyNICEResponse.jsp

NHS: Private Sector

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients chose to use a private provider for an NHS funded procedure in each year from 1997 to 2010; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [60061]

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[1] *[Official Report, 6 July 2011, Vol. 530, c. 15MC.]*

Mr Simon Burns: The figures in Table 1 provide a count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where a main operative procedure or intervention was performed at independent sector providers. These include patients who may have elected or been referred to these centres between 2000-01 and 2009-10. The Department does not collect information on a patient's choice of provider. A decision on the choice of provider should be part of the patient-referrer discussion.

Table 1: FCEs with an operative procedure carried out by independent sector providers

	Number
2000-01	11
2001-02	11
2002-03	438
2003-04	4,936
2004-05	13,109
2005-06	16,051
2006-07	61,125
2007-08	87,027
2008-09	159,249
2009-10	208,693

Note:

Data quality Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 national health service trusts and PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

The expenditure in Table 2 relates to the total health care spend in independent sector treatment sectors and other private sector providers and covers a range of services and treatments. Data were not collected on expenditure between different sector providers (including voluntary and local authority) prior to 2006-07.

Table 2: Expenditure by primary care trusts (PCTs) on the purchase of health care from non-NHS bodies 2006-07 to 2009-10

	2006-07		*2007-08*		*2008-09*		*2009-10*	
	£ million	*%*	*£ million*	*%*	*£ million*	*%*	*£ million*	*%*
Spend with								
Independent sector treatment centres	200	0.3	314	0.4	352	0.4	373	0.4
Other private sector providers	1,992	2.5	2,602	3.0	3,066	3.4	3,766	.3.9
Total	2,192	2.8	7,916	3.4	3,418	3.8	4,139	4.3

Source:

Audited PCT summarisation schedules 2006-07 to 2009-10.

NHS: Reorganisation

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many responses the NHS Future Forum received from *(a)* Skipton and Ripon constituency, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber. [60264]

Mr Simon Burns: As part of the NHS Listening Exercise, the Government received over 25,000 emails to the NHS Future Forum inbox, and over 600 completed questionnaires.

The information that is held does not allow us to determine where in the country all of the 25,000 emails were from. Our records show that 10 of the emails at least were from the Yorkshire and the Humber region.

Of the 600 questionnaires received, 26 were from the Yorkshire and the Humber region, although many people who responded did not provide information about their location.

We do not have any record of responses being received from Skipton and Ripon, nor North Yorkshire specifically.

NHS: Standards

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he plans to *(a)* consult on the 2012-13 NHS Outcomes Framework and *(b)* publish the 2012-13 NHS Outcomes Framework; [59620]

(2) when he plans to publish the levels of ambition for the 2012-13 NHS Outcomes Framework. [59621]

Mr Simon Burns: The "NHS Outcomes Framework 2011/12" was published in December 2010 and signals the direction of travel for the national health service in focusing on outcomes. The first NHS Outcomes Framework made clear our commitment to update the NHS Outcomes Framework annually, to ensure it can accommodate new and better indicators as they become available. In order to measure progress against the outcomes the NHS will be aiming to deliver, it will be important to maintain continuity of the indicators included in the framework. For this reason, we envisage that only a small number of indicators will change or be refined in any one year. We currently have no plans to consult on the 2012-13 NHS Outcomes Framework.

Chapter 4 of the "NHS Outcomes Framework 2011/12" provides a summary of the milestones in relation to development of the framework, which are subject to the parliamentary process. The key milestones are currently being reviewed in light of the recent pause in the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill.

NHS: Surveys

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent North, of 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 401W, on NHS: surveys, whether he has received the final report from Ipsos MORI for the survey conducted during November-December 2010. [60114]

Mr Simon Burns: The report from Ipsos MORI for the survey conducted during November-December 2010 has been received and is now on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/PublishedSurvey/ListOfSurveySince1990/Generalsurveys/DH_4129933

Respite Care: Tyne and Wear

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department allocated to South of Tyne and Wear primary care trusts for breaks for people who care for disabled family members in the latest period for which figures are available. [59931]

Paul Burstow: The Department is making an additional £400 million available in primary care trust (PCT) baselines for carers' breaks between 2011-15. The Department does not hold information on individual PCT allocations.

It is for PCTs to commission services to meet the health care needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities. There is not a weighted capitation formula specific to 'care' that would allow needs to be accurately identified at the local level. For these reasons, PCTs have not been advised of individual sums for breaks.

The "2011-12 NHS Operating Framework", published on 15 December, makes it clear that:

> "PCTs should pool budgets with local authorities to provide carers' breaks, as far as possible, via direct payments or personal health budgets. For 2011-12, PCTs should agree policies, plans and budgets to support carers with local authorities and local carers' organisations, and make them available to local people."

A copy of the Framework has already been placed in the Library.

Smoking

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 71W, on smoking, what research his Department has evaluated on the contribution of the *(a)* display and *(b)* packaging of tobacco products to smoking initiation. [60145]

Anne Milton: The Department keeps research in the area of tobacco control under review. The Impact Assessment for the Health Act 2009 sets out a range of the evidence relating to the effect of the display of tobacco products on smoking rates and behaviours. The Department will undertake a consultation on options to reduce the promotional impact of tobacco packaging, including plain packaging, before the end of 2011. As part of this consultation, respondents will be asked to bring evidence relating to the impact of tobacco packaging on smoking to the Department's attention.

Transplant Surgery

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to implement his proposed ban on private transplants using organs from NHS donors. [60127]

Anne Milton: The recommended ban is included as part of our considerations of the wider implications for transplant allocation policy of the rights of European Union nationals and of the role and impact of private practice. This process is complex and ongoing. Following careful consideration of all the issues, we will make any necessary changes and publish guidance for the transplant sector.

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control makes for meetings between Government Ministers and representatives of tobacco companies; and if he will make a statement. [60144]

Anne Milton: The World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) does not specifically address the question of meetings between Government Ministers and representatives of tobacco companies.

The FCTC places obligations on parties to protect the development of public health policy from the vested interests of the tobacco industry. We have made our commitment to this very clear in Chapter 10 of "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: a Tobacco Control Plan for England".

A copy of the plan has already been placed in the Library.

JUSTICE

Coroners

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms his Department has put in place to monitor the performance of local coroners. [59949]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice collects annual statistics on the workload of coroners under section 28 of the Coroner Act 1988. The information collected includes the number of deaths reported to each coroner in each year, post-mortem examinations and inquests held, verdicts returned at inquests, the time taken to conclude inquests, and finds reported under the Treasure Act 1996. The latest set of statistics collected relate to 2010 and were published in May 2011 on the Ministry of Justice website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/coroners-and-burials/deaths.htm

The Ministry also publishes quarterly written ministerial statements with details of the inquests of service personnel who have died in operations and exercises overseas, the latest of which can be found on the Parliament website at

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110512/wmstext/110512m0001.htm

and twice yearly summaries of reports issued by coroners and responses received under Rule 43 of the Coroners Rules 1984 (as amended), the latest of which can be found on the Ministry's website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/policy/moj/summary-of-reports-and-responses-under-rule-43-of-the-coroners-rules/index.htm

Criminal Proceedings

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people pleaded guilty before their case reached trial in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; [60063]

(2) how many people received a 33 per cent. sentence discount for an early guilty plea in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [60064]

Mr Blunt: In 2009 and 2010, the number of defendants dealt with in the Crown court who entered a guilty plea before their case reached trial was 71,442 and 76,068, respectively. Information on the number of defendants pleading guilty before their case reaches trial in the magistrates courts is not collected centrally and could be gathered from court files only at disproportionate cost.

The above figures relate to defendants dealt with in cases that had been committed or sent for trial to the Crown court. Committed for trial cases can be heard in either a magistrates court or the Crown court (a defendant can elect to be tried in the Crown court before a judge and jury or a magistrate can decide that a case is sufficiently serious that it should be dealt with in the Crown court). Sent for trial cases can only be heard by the Crown court because of the severity of the offence committed.

A guilty plea is recorded when a defendant: (i) pleads guilty to all counts; (ii) pleads guilty to some counts and not guilty to others and no jury is sworn in respect of the not guilty counts; and (iii) pleads not guilty to some or all counts but offers a guilty plea to alternatives which are accepted (providing no jury is sworn in respect of the other counts).

Information about the extent to which sentences in individual cases are reduced by reason of a guilty plea is not recorded centrally.

Departmental Lost Property

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* laptops and *(c)* hand-held IT devices issued by his Department have been recorded as lost since May 2010. [60015]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has recorded the loss or theft of *(b)* 47 laptops and *(c)* 58 BlackBerrys from May 2010 until the end of March 2011. Information on the number of *(a)* mobile telephones lost is not held centrally, and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All Ministry of Justice laptops and BlackBerrys are encrypted and protected with a complex password; and all BlackBerrys that are registered as lost or stolen are blocked remotely, making it impossible for them to be used. The Ministry also implements security incident management procedures to ensure that the impacts of incidents are risk managed and investigations are undertaken to seek, where possible, to retrieve lost/stolen assets.

The Ministry adopts Government security policy framework requirements to securely protect its assets.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on *(a)* stationery, *(b)* ministerial hospitality, *(c)* taxis, *(d)* pot plants and cut flowers, *(e)* lost mobile phones, *(f)* IT, *(g)* staff training and *(h)* staff away days since May 2010. [60241]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I shall provide the right hon. Member with a reply as soon as possible.

Departmental Termination of Employment

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many managers at grade C or above have left the employment of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Offender Management Service in the last two financial years; and how many of those managers have subsequently been employed by (i) Serco, (ii) G4S and (iii) any other private sector company holding contracts with his Department. [59781]

Mr Blunt: The grading structure in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) differs from the rest of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). The definition of Grade C is different in each case. Senior Manager C in NOMS refers to a more senior responsibility level than a Band C in MOJ. The equivalent of a Senior Manager C within MOJ is Band A. It is this level for which information is supplied in the answer.

The number of senior managers (Bands A and above) that left the MOJ between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2011 was 348. The number of senior managers (Senior Manager C and above) that left NOMS during the same period was 109. Of these, 38 staff were operational grades.

The MOJ and NOMS do not keep records of employment taken up by former staff after they have left. NOMS is however aware that a small number of senior managers resigned in 2010 to take up posts in the private sector, including the governors of Holloway, Whitemoor, Moorland and the Isle of Wight prisons. The former director general of NOMS also took up an appointment with G4S after he had left Crown employment in 2010. There may have been others who joined private sector providers but there is no requirement for those leaving to advise the Department or agency of their future employment plans, save for any obligations under the Business Appointment Rules.

Foreign Nationals: Prisoners

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners held on the prison estate are entitled to reside in the UK. [60000]

Damian Green: I have been asked to reply.

In order to answer this question the UK Border Agency would need to cross reference individual records with the National Offender Management Service. This would incur a disproportionate cost. The latest figure available shows that on 31 March there were 10,745 foreign nationals in the prison estate.

However, I can advise that a proportion of the foreign nationals in prison have a right to be in the UK either as an EEA national, or through another form of leave for example Indefinite Leave to Remain or having been granted asylum. The UK Border Agency will seek to revoke leave in order to remove individuals who meet the criteria for deportation.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many foreign nationals were convicted of *(a)* rape, *(b)* sexual assault, *(c)* sexual offences against children and *(d)* violent offences in each of the last 10 years; [59667]

(2) how many foreign nationals convicted of *(a)* rape, *(b)* sexual offences against children, *(c)* other sexual offences and *(d)* a violent offence were sentenced to (i) non-custodial sentences and (ii) custodial sentences of (A) less than one year, (B) between one and two years, (C) between two and three years, (D) between three and four years, (E) between four and five years, (F) between five and six years, (G) between six and seven years, (H) between seven and eight years, (I) between eight and nine years, (J) between nine and 10 years, (K) between 10 and 11 years, (L) between 11 and 12 years, (M) between 12 and 15 years, (N) between 15 and 20 years and (O) over 20 years in each of the last 10 years. [59670]

Mr Blunt: Statistical information recorded centrally on the Court Proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice does not include a defendant's nationality.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign nationals convicted of *(a)* rape, *(b)* sexual offences against children, *(c)* other sexual offences and *(d)* a violent offence were released from prison after serving custodial sentences of (i) less than one year, (ii) between one and two years, (iii) between two and three years, (iv) between three and four years, (v) between four and five years, (vi) between five and six years, (vii) between six and seven years, (viii) between seven and eight years, (ix) between eight and nine years, (x) between nine and 10 years, (xi) between 10 and 11 years, (xii) between 11 and 12 years, (xiii) between 12 and 15 years, (xiv) between 15 and 20 years and (xv) over 20 years in each of the last 10 years. [59669]

Mr Blunt: The following tables show the number of foreign national prisoners released from determinate sentences for *(a)* rape, *(b)* other sexual offences, and *(c)* violence against the person offences, by detailed sentence length band in each year from 2001-10 (except 2009 where the data are not available to this level of detail). From the data held centrally, it is not possible to separately identify those offenders convicted of sexual offences against children; they are included with other sexual offences.

Foreign national prisoners discharged from determinate sentences, rape, other sexual offences and violence against the person, England and Wales, 2001-10

	2001			2002			2003		
	Rape	Other sexual offences	Violence against the Person	Rape	Other sexual offences	Violence against the Person	Rape	Other sexual offences	Violence against the Person
Total	50	102	549	44	111	599	35	106	624
Less than one year	0	43	342	0	53	387	1	42	383
1 years to less than 2 years	1	31	78	1	24	90	0	31	106
2 years to less than 3 years	0	11	34	2	11	49	1	13	50
3 years to less than 4 years	2	6	35	3	13	27	1	10	31
4 years to less than 5 years	2	5	12	3	5	11	3	4	22
5 years to less than 6 years	10	2	17	6	3	13	4	2	15
6 years to less than 7 years	12	1	10	6	1	10	4	0	4
7 years to less than 8 years	9	1	9	5	0	2	4	2	5
8 years to less than 9 years	4	1	2	8	1	1	7	2	5
9 years to less than 10 years	2	0	2	3	0	1	3	0	1
10 years to less than 11 years	1	1	3	3	0	3	2	0	1
11 years to less than 12 years	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
12 years to less than 15 years	5	0	3	3	0	5	1	0	1
15 years to less than 20 years	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0
20 years to less than life	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	2004			2005			2006		
	Rape	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the Person*	*Rape*	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the Person*	*Rape*	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the Person*
Total	47	103	874	47	103	874	42	115	955
Less than one year	2	49	583	2	49	583	4	59	714
1 years to less than 2 years	3	20	113	3	20	113	2	26	120
2 years to less than 3 years	4	10	61	4	10	61	0	15	40
3 years to less than 4 years	4	10	33	4	10	33	8	7	30
4 years to less than 5 years	1	6	34	1	6	34	3	4	17
5 years to less than 6 years	7	2	19	7	2	19	5	2	15
6 years to less than 7 years	9	1	11	9	1	11	5	1	4
7 years to less than 8 years	6	2	9	6	2	9	2	1	3
8 years to less than 9 years	3	0	4	3	0	4	7	0	8
9 years to less than 10 years	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	1
10 years to less than 11 years	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	0	1
11 years to less than 12 years	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
12 years to less than 15 years	5	0	1	5	0	1	1	0	1
15 years to less than 20 years	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
20 years to less than life	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

	2007			2008			2010		
	Rape	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the Person*	*Rape*	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the Person*	*Rape*	*Other sexual offences*	*Violence against the Person*
Total	43	102	904	43	133	1,172	90	133	1,313
Less than one year	3	55	699	5	70	914	2	64	975
1 years to less than 2 years	4	21	94	0	26	109	1	19	136
2 years to less than 3 years	2	8	31	0	12	41	1	13	65
3 years to less than 4 years	1	4	24	3	13	26	3	10	47
4 years to less than 5 years	3	12	16	5	4	17	7	13	27
5 years to less than 6 years	8	0	13	6	1	34	15	8	28
6 years to less than 7 years	8	1	9	8	1	12	18	2	6
7 years to less than 8 years	5	0	7	6	6	11	14	2	6
8 years to less than 9 years	1	1	7	4	0	2	12	1	12
9 years to less than 10 years	2	0	2	2	0	1	9	0	4
10 years to less than 11 years	4	0	1	3	0	4	4	1	3
11 years to less than 12 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
12 years to less than 15 years	2	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0
15 years to less than 20 years	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
20 years to less than life	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

Legal Aid: Citizens Advice Bureaux

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of legal help contracts with citizens advice bureaux on *(a)* debt, *(b)* welfare benefits, *(c)* housing, *(d)* family law and *(e)* employment assistance. [59961]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales. The LSC does not hold information on the cost-effectiveness of legal help contracts with Citizens Advice Bureaux on *(a)* debt, *(b)* welfare benefits, *(c)* housing, *(d)* family law and *(e)* employment assistance.

Since 2007, in order to ensure that clients are offered the same standard of quality whether they choose to obtain legally aided advice from a private contracted solicitor firm or a voluntary sector organisation the LSC has offered one single contract to both private and voluntary sector organisations.

The LSC manages each provider's performance against the contract to ensure that legal aid funds are properly managed, and provide value for money services for the client, the Government and the taxpayer.

Prisoners' Release

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were released on life licence in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010 in England and Wales. [59679]

Mr Blunt: The number of releases from prison establishments in England and Wales on life licence in *(a)* 2009 was 142 and in *(b)* 2010 was 161.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to prevent resettled ex-offenders from being concentrated in certain regions. [59804]

Mr Blunt: Normally, offenders who have served sentences in custody are expected to return to their home area.

Probation trusts will work closely with local authority housing services and the police to make sure that offenders are appropriately managed in the community. Applicants for social housing must demonstrate to local housing authorities that they have a local connection; offender managers work closely with local authorities to verify this connection, and to protect the public by mitigating any risks, particularly to victims

Trusts are also active members of Community Safety Partnerships, which are responsible for developing local strategies for reducing reoffending.

Probation

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether a risk assessment was carried out by the relevant probation trust prior to the closure of any Probation Service office since May 2010; [59077]

(2) how many Probation Service offices in England and Wales were closed in April 2011; [59078]

(3) what estimate he has made of the potential savings from the closure of Probation Service offices in England and Wales in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [59079]

(4) what plans he has to close Probation Service offices in England and Wales in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [59080]

Mr Blunt: As part of probation trusts' estate strategy development, an assessment is made of the impact and risks relating to proposed closures.

No probation premises closed during April 2011.

Probation trusts are encouraged to consider vacating buildings that are not required or that are not fit for purpose, not only to increase efficiency, but also to improve the overall quality and suitability of premises. A number of properties are under consideration for closure in 2011-12 and 2012-13, but final numbers and, therefore, the total estimated savings have yet to be determined.

Reoffenders

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were recalled to custody following a breach of a *(a)* determinate licence and *(b)* life licence in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010 in England and Wales. [59678]

Mr Blunt: For the financial year 2009-10[1], there were *(a)* 13,919 recalls of people serving determinate sentences and *(b)* in 2009 there were 124 recalls from life licence. In 2010 there were 99 recalls from life licence.

Statistics on licence recalls and returns to custody are published quarterly in the Offender Management Statistics quarterly bulletin on the Ministry of Justice website

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/oms-quartlery.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

[1] Financial year data for 2009-10 are based on information recorded on the central prison IT system at 30 April 2010. Financial year data for 2010-11 is not available.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people recalled to custody were deemed high risk in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010 in England and Wales. [59696]

Mr Blunt: Offenders serving a sentence of 12 months and over are released from prison, in most cases automatically at the half way point of a determinate sentence, under licensed supervision to the Probation Service. Offenders released on licence are recalled to custody if their behaviour gives cause for concern. Offenders who, at the point of recall, are believed to present a high risk of serious harm or a risk of imminent re-offending are classified as an "emergency" recall. There were 2,454 emergency recalls in 2009 and 2,458 in 2010.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

EDUCATION

Children: Human Trafficking

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what recent assessment he has made of the capacity of local authorities to support children identified as victims of human trafficking; and if he will make a statement; [58948]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of children identified as victims of human trafficking that have gone missing from local authority care in *(a)* each region and *(b)* Wales in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [58949]

(3) how many children identified as victims of human trafficking were in local authority care in *(a)* each region of England and *(b)* Wales in the latest period for which figures are available. [58950]

Tim Loughton: Local authorities have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area. They work in close co-operation with the police and the UK Border Agency to support and provide protection for potentially trafficked children. This will include assessing their needs and putting in place support packages, which may include the child becoming looked after in the care system. Where a child does become looked after, local authorities must allocate the child a social worker who will draw up a care plan. This sets out how the authority intends to respond to the full range of a child's needs, including the need to safeguard them from contact with traffickers.

The plan will also include arrangements to be followed if the young person goes missing. The National Minimum Standards (NMS) for Children's Homes and Fostering Services require all homes and fostering services to have explicit procedures for when looked after children are missing or absent. "Statutory Guidance on Children who Run Away and Go Missing from Home and Care", issued in July 2009, requires local authorities to collect information on missing from care incidents. Local authorities must make regular reports to council members with responsibility for "corporate parenting" on patterns of children going missing from care. However, information on whether a looked after child has been the victim of human trafficking, or has been trafficked into the country and subsequently goes missing from care, is not collected centrally.

Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of contracts issued by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies for which he is responsible were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [60206]

Tim Loughton: To get the information on what proportion of contracts were awarded by the Department for Education, and its agencies to small and medium-sized enterprises in the areas mentioned could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Diamond Jubilee 2012: Urban Areas

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) when he expects to announce the outcome of the competition for diamond jubilee city status; [59542]

(2) which areas have submitted a bid for city status as part of the competition to mark the Queen's diamond jubilee. [59543]

Mr Harper: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statements I made on 1 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 77WS and today.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Age: Discrimination

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps she is taking to reduce the incidence of age discrimination in the workplace. [58985]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The Government's Age Positive initiative aims to reduce age discrimination at work by providing employers with guidance on the business benefits of investing in older workers. The Government are working in partnership with key business leaders in the main occupational sectors to drive forward sustained improvement around the recruitment, retention and training of older people and embed effective workforce practices that include flexible work and flexible retirement opportunities. Information is given on:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/agepositive

The Government have introduced legislation this year to phase out the Default Retirement Age (DRA), which will mean that employers can no longer retire people compulsorily at 65 years using the DRA. This change will allow people to retire when they choose to. The legislation will still allow employers to use compulsory retirement ages, which can be earlier than 65 years, providing they can objectively justify it.

NORTHERN IRELAND

European Commission

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what meetings he has had with European Commission officials since May 2010. [60658]

Mr Paterson: I have had no such meetings.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Regulations

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what impact assessment his Department has carried out in respect of proposed changes to the competent person assessment scheme; and if he will make a statement. [59963]

Andrew Stunell: The Department published proposals in a consultation document to revise the conditions of authorisation for Building Regulations competent person schemes in December 2009 with a view to achieving a higher level of compliance with the requirements in the regulations and to give greater consumer protection. The proposals were accompanied by an impact assessment which concluded that there would be a net present benefit over 10 years of £23 million. The consultation document and impact assessment are available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/competentschemechangesconsult

The Department is currently amending the proposed conditions in response to comments made in reply to the consultation and further discussions with scheme operators and others, and will amend the impact assessment accordingly. The amended impact assessment will be published later this year.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what strategic framework his Department has developed for the delivery of its core functions during the comprehensive spending review period. [59734]

Robert Neill: The core functions of the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) are to lead action within Government for decentralisation and localism, and also to play and an important role in delivering economic growth and the big society.

The framework for delivering these responsibilities consists of the DCLG business plan and the structural reform plan.

The DCLG business plan was republished on 13 May and sets out our vision and priorities, as well as data on budgets, common areas of spend and indicators. From July, progress on these will be published by all Departments including DCLG in the quarterly data summaries.

Detailed actions to deliver our priorities are set out with clear actions and measurable milestones in the structural reform plan. This was recently refreshed in the DCLG business plan. Progress against the structural reform plan actions is published on the No 10 website each month.

Fire Services

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish the Government's response to its consultation on the future of fire controls in England. [60254]

Robert Neill: We hope to publish our formal response, including information about arrangements for distributing any funding available shortly. I am very grateful to all those who responded and we have been analysing their views carefully. I updated chairs of fire and rescue authorities and their chief fire officers on progress earlier this week.

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to publish a new Fire and Rescue Services National Framework. [60624]

Robert Neill: A revised Fire and Rescue Services National Framework will be published by the summer 2012. A copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

Fire Services: Accountability

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received on the merits of including the fire service within the remit of the proposed directly-elected police and crime commissioners; and if he will make a statement. [60209]

Robert Neill: My Department has not received any representations on the merits of including the fire service within the remit of the proposed directly-elected police and crime commissioners.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will review the decision to end support for empty property rate measures. [59768]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Newark (Patrick Mercer) on 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 178W.

Public Sector: Land

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultation he has had with *(a)* the Welsh Government, *(b)* the Scottish Government and *(c)* the Northern Ireland Executive on plans for Government Departments to dispose of surplus public sector land. [59697]

Robert Neill: The disposal of surplus public sector land is a devolved matter, and the announcement on 8 June 2011 by the Minister for Housing and Local Government, to accelerate the release of public sector land for housing related to England only. My officials meet regularly with their counterparts in the devolved Administrations to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to amend the circular 1/2006 on Travellers; and if he will make a statement. [58934]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 10 June 2011]:* On 13 April, my Department published a draft planning policy statement on Traveller sites, which we intend will replace Circular 01/2006 ("Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Sites") and Circular 04/2007 ("Planning for Travelling Showpeople"). It is open for public consultation until 6 July and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House. Although the circulars are currently extant, decision makers are entitled to have regard to the fact that it is proposed to withdraw them and replace them with this new policy.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has any plans to reform attendance allowance. [58855]

Maria Miller: There are currently no plans to reform attendance allowance. Once personal independence payment has replaced disability living allowance for the working age case load, we will consider carefully any potential impacts of this for attendance allowance.

Children: Day Care

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure families living in poverty have adequate access to childcare in order to take up employment. [57648]

Maria Miller: Jobcentre Plus advisers help parents identify and access appropriate child care provision in their area. Partnership managers work with local authorities to identify gaps in provision. The costs of child care are paid by Jobcentre Plus for parent claimants on Jobcentre Plus work and training programmes.

Help with child care costs for working parents is currently provided via working tax credits. We have recently announced that in the future help with child care costs will be provided in universal credit.

Departmental Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data his Department has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months; and what such research and data collection exercises undertaken by the Department have not been amended in that period. [56757]

Chris Grayling: DWP undertakes a regular review of its research programme, including statistical surveys. The information has been placed in the Library. The response does not include data collected by the Department's staff on its day-to-day management of our business.

Disability Living Allowance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in receipt of the *(a)* medium rate care component and *(b)* high rate mobility component of disability living allowance also receive the disability element of child tax credit or the disability premiums of income support. [60170]

Maria Miller: My Department does not collate information on child tax credit.

Income support can be claimed only by people aged between age 16 and pension credit age. Therefore no child DLA claimants are in receipt of the disability premiums of income support.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future rate of the *(a)* enhanced disability element of child tax credit and *(b)* severe disability element of income support for children not in receipt of transitional protection after their replacement with the higher disability addition on the introduction of universal credit. [60171]

Chris Grayling: Under universal credit we have committed to providing additional elements for disabled children, with a higher rate for disabled and severely disabled children. We have already announced that the rates of the disabled child elements will align with the additional elements payable to disabled adults within universal credit. We have also committed to providing transitional protection for cash losers at point of change.

In today's figures this means that the lower rate would be around £26.75 and the higher rate £74.50 a week.

Our intention is that the higher rate for children and adults will be increased in stages as resources allow. We are aware that severely disabled children receiving the highest rates in child tax credit or income support are receiving close to the illustrative amount for the higher rate already and we are factoring this into our planning.

Disability Living Allowance: Clwyd

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in Vale of Clwyd constituency who will be affected by the planned change to disability living allowance. [59548]

Maria Miller: Support in personal independence payment will be focused on those who face the biggest barriers to independent living. The assessment continues to be developed and at this stage, therefore, an evaluation is not available of the impact that changes could have on existing disability living allowance, or future recipients. We are working with disabled people and organisations that represent them on the detailed design and delivery of personal independence payment and the outcomes from this work will be reflected in updates to the impact assessment for this change. We have already announced that personal independence payment will be a non-taxable, non means-tested benefit payable to people in and out of work.

The numbers of recipients of disability living allowance in the Vale of Clwyd parliamentary constituency who are 16 to 64 years old are provided in the following table.

Recipients of disability living allowance in the Vale of Clwyd parliamentary constituency ages 16 to 64—November 2010

	Number
Vale of Clwyd Constituency (ages 16 to 64)	4,000

Notes:

1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Data are for the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

3. These figures are published at http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 100% WPLS

Disability Living Allowance: Mental Health

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people with a *(a)* mental health condition and *(b)* physical disability who were in receipt of disability benefits and have had those benefits withdrawn in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [58562]

Maria Miller: We are unable to estimate the number of people with mental health conditions or physical disabilities who have had their disability living allowance or attendance allowance withdrawn. The specific information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The information on the number of people with mental or physical disabilities in receipt of disability living allowance or attendance allowance is in the following tables.

Disability living allowance recipients by main disabling condition, Great Britain, November 2010

	Total
All	3,181,080
Physical Disorders	2,299,750
Mental Health Disorders	881,330

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Attendance allowance recipients by main disabling condition, Great Britain, November 2010

	Total
All	1,626,910
Physical Disorders	1,470,120
Mental Health Disorders	156,790

Notes:
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10—totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.
3. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. 'Physical Disorders' encompass all categories not included in 'Mental Health Disorders'. Namely, the main disabling conditions Arthritis, Muscle/Joint/Bone Disease, Blindness, Stroke Related, Epilepsy, Deafness, Malignant Disease, Chest Disease, Back Ailments, Heart Disease, Parkinson's Disease, Diabetes Mellitus, Renal Disorders, AIDS, Skin Disease, Frailty, Multiple Sclerosis and a number of cases not allocated to a main disabling condition. These are codes which were introduced in October 2008 and include B21 'Infectious diseases (Tuberculosis)', B31 'Infectious diseases (Malaria)' and B99 'Infectious diseases (Other 'Infectious Disease')'. Unknown cases are also included in this category.
5. 'Mental Health Disorders' encompass the main disabling conditions 'Learning Difficulties' and 'Mental and Behavioural Disorders' and the new code introduced in October 2008, 'Psychiatric Disorders'.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in Bridgend constituency *(a)* of each age group, *(b)* of each sex, *(c)* with each physical disability and *(d)* with each mental health diagnosis who are in receipt of disability benefits; and if he will make a statement. [58563]

Maria Miller: The information requested is in the following tables.

Disability living allowance recipients in Bridgend parliamentary constituency by main disabling condition, age and sex—November 2010

	All			*Physical disorders*			*Mental health disorders*		
	All	*Female*	*Male*	*All*	*Female*	*Male*	*All*	*Female*	*Male*
All	6,660	3,380	3,280	5,190	2,760	2,430	1,470	630	850
Under 5	70	30	40	40	20	20	30	10	20
5-10	220	60	160	110	40	70	100	20	80
11-15	240	70	170	120	40	80	120	20	100
16-17	90	30	60	40	20	20	50	10	40
18-24	250	90	160	100	30	70	150	60	100
25-29	160	80	80	70	40	30	100	50	50
30-34	190	80	100	90	40	40	100	40	60
35-39	290	150	140	160	100	60	130	50	70
40-44	330	180	150	210	120	90	120	60	60
45-49	510	300	210	350	210	140	160	90	70
50-54	480	290	200	360	220	140	120	70	50
55-59	620	360	260	530	310	220	90	50	40
60-64	860	450	410	770	410	360	90	40	50
65-69	890	470	420	830	440	400	60	40	20
70-74	720	370	340	680	360	330	30	10	20
75-79	470	240	230	450	230	220	20	10	10
80-84	190	90	110	190	90	110	—	—	—
85-89	70	40	30	70	40	30	—	—	—
90 and over	10	10	—	10	10	—	—	—	—
All	6,660	3,380	3,280	5,190	2,760	2,430	1,470	630	850

Attendance allowance recipients in Bridgend parliamentary constituency by main disabling condition, age and sex—November 2010

	All			*Physical disorders*			*Mental health disorders*		
	All	*Female*	*Male*	*All*	*Female*	*Male*	*All*	*Female*	*Male*
All	2,910	2,030	880	2,730	1,900	830	180	130	50
65 to 69	80	50	30	70	50	30	10	—	10
70 to 74	330	210	120	320	200	120	20	10	—
75 to 79	600	390	210	550	360	190	40	20	20
80 to 84	730	510	220	690	470	210	40	30	10
85 to 89	730	520	200	690	490	190	40	30	10
90 and over	440	350	90	410	320	90	30	30	—

'—' Denotes nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. Case loads are rounded to the nearest 10—totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.
3. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament 2010.
5. 'Physical Disorders' encompass all categories not included in 'Mental Health Disorders'. Namely, the main disabling conditions Arthritis, Muscle/Joint/Bone Disease, Blindness, Stroke Related, Epilepsy, Deafness, Malignant Disease, Chest Disease, Back Ailments, Heart Disease, Parkinson's Disease, Diabetes Mellitus, Renal Disorders, AIDS, Skin Disease, Frailty, Multiple Sclerosis and a number of cases not allocated to a main disabling condition. These are codes which were introduced in October 2008 and include B21 'Infectious diseases (Tuberculosis)', B31 'Infectious diseases (Malaria)' and B99 'Infectious diseases (Other Infectious Disease)'. Unknown cases are also included in this category.
6. 'Mental Health Disorders' encompass the main disabling conditions 'Learning Difficulties' and 'Mental and Behavioural Disorders' and the new code introduced in October 2008 , 'Psychiatric Disorders'.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will allow claimants of employment and support allowance to move to universal credit ahead of the planned transfer date. [58183]

Maria Miller: Our current intention is that we will start to take new claims to universal credit from October 2013. From April 2014 to October 2017 we will begin to transition existing claimants to universal credit, existing claimants may also move as a process of natural transition if for example, they have a change of circumstance.

Jobcentre Plus: Complaints

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints have been received by each Jobcentre Plus office in the London borough of Greenwich in each of the last 12 months. [60169]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many complaints have been received by each Jobcentre Plus in the London Borough of Greenwich in each of the last 12 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There are two Jobcentre Plus offices located in the London Borough of Greenwich; Eltham Jobcentre Plus and Woolwich Jobcentre Plus.

The figures included in the tables below represent all correspondence made by, or relating to, a Jobcentre Plus customer of either the Eltham or Woolwich offices. This includes complaints received at any point of the Jobcentre Plus complaints process, including at the Jobcentre, at District Office and those received by senior officials and Ministers.

Complaints received by Eltham Jobcentre Plus over the last 12 months

Month complaints received	*Number of complaints*
June 2010	12
July 2010	13
August 2010	12
September 2010	15
October 2010	21
November 2010	16
December 2010	10
January 2011	14
February 2011	23
March 2011	14
April 2011	4
May 2011	3
Total	157

Complaints received by Woolwich Jobcentre Plus over the last 12 months

Month complaints received	*Number of complaints*
June 2010	27
July 2010	27
August 2010	30
September 2010	22
October 2010	28
November 2010	20
December 2010	21
January 2011	28
February 2011	31
March 2011	23
April 2011	20
May 2011	34
Total	311

Jobcentres: Employment Schemes

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department takes to monitor the effectiveness of jobcentres in assisting individuals into long-term employment. [58210]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking about what steps the Department takes to monitor the effectiveness of Jobcentres in assisting individuals into long term employment. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The main measure of Jobcentre Plus performance is the rate at which people leave Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support and Employment and Support Allowance and move into employment. The measure supports the Department for Work and Pensions 2011-15 Business Plan and the Coalition Government's structural reform priorities. Jobcentre Plus provides regular monthly progress and performance reports to the Department and Ministers, and performance data will be made available to the public through the DWP website.

For the very large numbers of Jobcentre Plus claimants, it is not cost effective or appropriate to routinely monitor what happens to them after they have been successful in finding work. However to help identify those claimants who return quickly to benefit and who experience difficulties remaining in work, Jobcentre Plus monitors the number of times claimants have been on the same benefit over the previous two years, and the period since they last claimed the benefit. The Department also undertakes a range of evaluation activity of its programmes to assess the impact on long term employment.

The Work Programme is now providing support for claimants at most risk of longer dependency on welfare. The Work Programme includes financial incentives for providers for achieving sustained employment outcomes for up to 2 years. A substantial element of the total potential payment is linked to sustained employment. Official statistics will be published in due course.

Personal Independence Payment: Autism

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to ensure that the needs of those with autism are adequately accounted for in the draft descriptors for the personal independence payment. [58718]

Maria Miller: We know it is essential that the assessment for personal independence payment effectively accounts for the needs of disabled people with autistic spectrum disorders. We want the assessment for personal independence payment, which we have been developing in collaboration with a group of independent specialists in health and disability, to consider the impact of disability in a more holistic way than DLA does. The activities we have chosen to assess are intended to allow us to accurately consider the impact of physical, sensory, mental, intellectual and cognitive impairments. For example, the introduction of communication is a significant departure from DLA and one which will ensure we better take into account the effect of impairments that impact on sight, hearing, speech and comprehension.

We have published our initial proposals for the assessment criteria and are currently seeking views on them. As part of this officials have already met with the National Autistic Society and are currently considering their initial contribution to our informal consultation. We are also testing the draft assessment criteria over the summer to enable us to better understand their likely impact. As part of this we will be specifically looking at how they affect people with autistic spectrum disorders.

I have separately met with the Society to hear their views on DLA reform firsthand. We hope to continue working closely with them and other disability organisations as we continue to develop the assessment criteria and move towards implementation of personal independence payment.

Universal Credit

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what processes he plans to put in place to determine entitlement to universal credit for claimants with complex cases which cannot be dealt with through an automated system. [59540]

Chris Grayling: Universal credit will be rules-based and largely automated both to reduce administration costs and deliver better value for money for the taxpayer. In some cases, it will still be necessary to make judgments about evidence or entitlement, and those assessments will continue to be made by members of staff.

Universal Credit: Disability

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the higher earnings disregard for disabled adults within the universal credit will apply to carers of disabled children. [60248]

Chris Grayling: Carers are not a specified group entitled to an increased disregard. However, a significant majority of carers will be in a household that benefit from an earnings disregard because of other family circumstances.

Of course, earnings disregards are only one way in which universal credit will enhance the work incentives of carers. All groups will benefit from the single earnings taper, which is the main mechanism for ensuring that work pays.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Vehicles

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-combat vehicles owned by his Department were manufactured *(a)* in the UK, *(b)* in another EU member state and *(c)* in a country outside the EU. [59738]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence has a lease/hire agreement in place for the provision of the majority of non-operational vehicles (White Fleet Vehicles), which include cars, vans, trailers, minibuses, motorbikes and coaches. These are vehicles which are not intended to operate in combat zones. We do not therefore own such vehicles under this arrangement.

Some units may arrange for the ad hoc supply of a very small quantity of non-operational vehicles to be provided through local arrangements. These details are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence Reform Unit: Expenditure

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department has been of the establishment and operation of the Defence Reform Unit. [59539]

Mr Robathan: None of the members of the Defence reform steering group chaired by the noble Lord, Lord Levene, have been paid for this role. The team supporting the review comprises staff reallocated from other duties at no additional cost to the Department beyond some £10;000 incurred on travel and subsistence.

Departmental Apprentices

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many individuals completed civilian apprenticeships in his Department in each of the last 10 years. [59739]

Mr Robathan: The number of individuals completing civilian apprenticeships within the Ministry of Defence in each of the last 10 years is as follows:

Financial year	*Completions*
2001-02	13
2002-03	5
2003-04	15
2004-05	48
2005-06	24
2006-07	33
2007-08	43
2008-09	35
2009-10	140
2010-11	616

In addition, 154 individuals have completed civilian apprenticeships so far in 2011-12, and a further 1,255 civilian apprentices are currently in learning.

There have been a further 229 civilian apprenticeships completed over this period for which the exact year of completion is not known.

Departmental Consultants

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on consultants since 1 November 2010. [59613]

Mr Robathan: Consultancy (or external assistance) includes a range of activities, such as management consultancy, specialist lawyers, commercial bankers and IT expertise. Consultants help us increase our efficiency and effectiveness, but are employed only where the necessary work cannot be undertaken in house and where value for money can be clearly demonstrated. The total spend on consultants for the period 1 November 2010 to 30 March 2011 for the Ministry of Defence (MOD) was £13.085 million. This includes the MOD agencies and trading funds.

All new spend on consultancy must comply with the tighter controls announced last year by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Departmental Films

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on producing films since December 2010. [59614]

Mr Robathan: Since December 2010 the Ministry of Defence, including its Trading Funds, has spent approximately £440,000 on producing films, primarily to support essential training and as part of recruitment to maintain operational capability to the armed forces.

	£
Recruitment	6,673
Training	361,626
Other	75,000

This covers the production of the Army Families Deployment Guide.

Departmental Manpower

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on recreational facilities for staff in its buildings in each of the last five years. [59053]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Physical recreational facilities are made available as a matter of course for service personnel. All members of the armed forces are required to maintain a level of physical fitness that allows them to fulfil their service obligations and as a result suitable facilities are made available at military establishments for service personnel and, where capacity allows, also for civilian staff.

The Department provides no financial support for recreational facilities for civilian staff apart from the salary and accommodation costs of the Defence Sports and Recreation Association secretariat.

Departmental Marketing

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on advertising since May 2010. [59537]

Mr Robathan: In June 2010, the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury imposed restrictions across Government on marketing and advertising spend.

The following figures have been taken from requests which have been submitted to the Ministry of Defence's (MOD)s' Director of Media and Communications and approved under the Cabinet Office marketing and advertising restrictions from June 2010 to June 2011.

	£ million
MOD	20.0
Trading funds	1.4
Total	21.4

The MOD expenditure of £20 million includes £18 million for essential recruiting advertising to maintain the operational capability of the armed forces.

Departmental Renewable Energy

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many buildings *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by his Department have had renewable energy equipment installed to provide power in the last 12 months; and what type of equipment was installed in each such case. [59676]

Mr Robathan: A range of renewable energy technologies have been installed on the Defence estate over the last 12 months. However, records of each individual piece of equipment, and where it is located are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Examples of the types of renewable energy equipment installed include: ground source heat pumps, solar photovoltaic panels and a biomass boiler.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average daily cost of *(a)* using Italian air bases and *(b)* providing accommodation for UK armed forces in Italy as part of Operation Ellamy has been; and if he will make a statement. [58701]

Nick Harvey: It is too early to give a robust estimate of the costs of the operations in Libya. However, we expect they should be modest compared with some other operations, such as Afghanistan. As the Chancellor of the Exchequer has made clear, the additional costs of operations in Libya will be fully met from the reserve.

There are no ongoing additional costs resulting from our use of Italian air bases as this operation is being conducted under NATO and thus members of the alliance incur nil costs for such use.

The approximate average daily cost, assessed up to 1 June 2011, for accommodation of all UK personnel at the main deployed locations in Italy is given in the following table.

	Approximate daily accommodation costs (£)
Gioia del Colle, Italy	30,000
Trapani, Italy	10,000
Poggio Renatico, Italy	5,000
Naples, Italy	£2,000

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many RAF reserves at each *(a)* rank and *(b)* speciality are deployed on Libyan operations. [59225]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 10 June 2011]*: As at 9 June 2011, the following Royal Auxiliary Air Force personnel were deployed outside the UK in support of operation Ellamy:

Trade/Branch	*Rank*
Movements Operator	1 x Senior Aircraftman
Ops Support (Flight Operations)	1 x Flying Officer
Ops Support (Personnel)	1 x Acting Flight Lieutenant 1 x Wing Commander
Weapons Systems Operator (Crewman)	1 x Master Aircrew

The following sponsored reserves are also deployed on operation Ellamy:

Trade/Branch	*Rank*
Engineering Technician	2 x Chief Technician
Ops Support (Flight Operations)	2 x Flying Officer 1 x Flight Lieutenant
Supplier	2 x Corporal

Additionally the following Royal Auxiliary Air Force personnel have been called-out to support operation Ellamy within the UK:

Trade/Branch	*Rank*
Intelligence Analyst	5 x Senior Aircraftman 1 x Corporal 1 x Sergeant

Malaysia: Military Decorations

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the decision of the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals in respect of the wearing of the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal by British citizens; and if he will make a statement. [59957]

Mr Robathan: The Government are undertaking a review of the rules governing the awarding of military medals in line with their commitment in the Programme for Government. The review is currently in the final stages of evaluation and we are currently consulting with a number of campaign groups, including the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Veterans Association.

Military Low Flying

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 25WS, on military low flying 2010-11, how many low-flying training hours in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Wales were used for the training of members of the (i) Royal Air Force and (ii) air forces of each other country and organisation which participated in low-flying training in UK airspace in 2010-11. [59698]

Mr Robathan: The information is not held in the format requested. A total of 49,399 hours of low-flying training, including operational low flying, were carried out across the UK during the training year 2010-11. Foreign based aircraft are recorded as having operated within the UK as a whole for a total of 112 hours and 47 minutes in the training year 2010-11.

A total of 6,178 low-flying hours were recorded as being operated over Low Flying Area (LFA) 7 and LFA 7 T, which cover most, but not all, of Wales; we have no record showing separate flights by foreign based aircraft. Some foreign based aircraft may have operated both in the UK as a whole, and over Wales, as part of UK-led formations or exercises.

Military Decorations

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of introducing a national defence medal. [59938]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave during the debate on the National Defence Medal on 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 57WH, secured by the right hon. Member for Rotherham (Mr MacShane).

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to provide recognition of service for all those who have served in the armed forces through a medal or certificate. [59940]

Mr Robathan: All service personnel receive a certificate of service on discharge from the armed forces. This contains the period of service, the trade of the individual and the highest rank attained.

Official recognition of service is in the form of a veterans badge and it is issued as a matter of course to all service personnel on discharge. For all other former service personnel, application can be made to the Joint Service Medal Office and one will be issued.

The Government are undertaking a review of the rules governing the awarding of military medals in line with its commitment in the programme for Government. The review is currently in the final stages of evaluation and we are currently consulting with a number of campaign groups, including the Campaign for a National Defence Medal.

Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency: Manpower

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* police officers and *(b)* staff in the Ministry of Defence police in (i) 2010, (ii) 2011, (iii) 2012, (iv) 2013 and (v) 2014. [60173]

Mr Robathan: The number of Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) officers (strength) were as follows:

1 April 2010: 3,457

1 April 2011: 3,302

The number of non-uniformed civilian staff supporting the wider Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency, were as follows:

1 April 2010: 439

1 April 2011: 409

Consideration is being given to future staff numbers in the context of a wider examination of Defence support costs.

RAF Leuchars

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work classified as redevelopment has been *(a)* commenced and *(b)* continued at RAF Leuchars since 1 November 2010. [59618]

Mr Robathan: Since 1 November 2010 a number of redevelopment projects have commenced or continued at RAF Leuchars to achieve the minimum military requirement for Typhoon operations.

I would like to draw the right hon. Member's attention to the answer the Minister for Defence Equipment Support and Technology, my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Worcestershire (Peter Luff), gave on 18 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 677W. Further research has shown that a total of some £2.9 million was spent on redevelopment at RAF Leuchars in 2010-11. I regret that this expenditure was not identified earlier.

Stabilisation Unit: Finance

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department has allocated to its Stabilisation Fund in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [59924]

Nick Harvey: The Stabilisation Aid Fund and Conflict Prevention Pool were merged on 1 April 2009 to form the Conflict Pool, which is managed jointly by the Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence. Funding for the Conflict Pool is provided by HM Treasury as part of a dedicated settlement on conflict resources and is separate from departmental expenditure limits.

The Conflict Pool's funding allocation for each year of the current spending review period was provided in a written ministerial statement made by the Secretary of State for International Development on 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 57-59WS.

Swimming Pools

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's buildings have swimming pools for staff use. [59054]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Service

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the potential effect of civil service job losses on *(a)* each region of England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [59241]

Mr Maude: It is for individual Departments to determine their workforce planning. The Government are committed to supporting all public sector employers to do everything that they can to mitigate the impact of workforce reductions.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what strategic framework his Department has developed for the delivery of its core functions during the comprehensive spending review period. [59735]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has published a Business Plan covering the period 2011-15 which sets out its commitments.

Progress against the Business Plan is set out in the Structural Reform Plan monthly updates, published on the No. 10 website, and the forthcoming Quarterly Data Summary to be published on the Cabinet Office website.

Government Departments: Business

Mr Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to ensure that businesses undertaking work for Government Departments and agencies are paid promptly. [59484]

Mr Maude: The Government are determined to do everything they can to help business manage cash flow and to transform the culture of late payment. We have a target for central Government Departments to pay 80% of valid invoices within five working days of receipt.

Since 25 March 2010, it has been mandatory for all government departments, agencies, non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) (and the bodies over which they have direct control) to include a contract condition requiring their contractors to pay their sub-contractors within 30 days.

IPSA

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 560W, on IPSA: Parliamentary Commission for Administration, whether it is the Government's policy to bring the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority within the statutory remit of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration. [59754]

Mr Maude: The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority does not fall within the remit of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the parliamentary ombudsman) and the Government have no plans to bring the IPSA within the ambit of the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967.

Third Sector

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* market and *(b)* opinion research his Department has (i) conducted and (ii) commissioned on public expectations of Government in respect of provision of public services in the context of the Big Society. [60271]

Mr Hurd: I will reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of public attitudes towards the balance between fairness and diversity in the provision of public services. [60272]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has made no such assessment.

Well-being

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what assessment he has made of the implications for Government policy of the Government Office for Science's Foresight report on Mental Capital and Wellbeing; and if he will make a statement; [6675]

(2) what assessment he has made of the recommendations relating to his Department of the report by the Government Office for Science on Mental Capital and Wellbeing; if he will ensure that his Department's policy development process takes account of psychological research into subjective well-being; and if he will make a statement. [18454]

Mr Maude: Health and well-being is one of the Cabinet Secretary's corporate priorities. The Cabinet Office is working with DWP and other Government Departments to achieve a reduction in sickness absence levels.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Interview Transcribers

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many interview transcribers have been made redundant by West Midlands Police since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [59066]

Nick Herbert: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 235W, if she will list the provisions of *(a)* EU and *(b)* domestic legislation with which any local minimum unit pricing policy would need to be compliant. [59559]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 14 June 2011]:* Without knowing the specific details of a proposed local minimum unit pricing policy, it is not possible to provide an exhaustive list of provisions with which such a policy should comply. However, local authorities are likely to want to ensure that they have complied with the legal requirements of the Licensing Act 2003 and the Local Government Act 1972. They would also want to consider whether their policy could be seen as disproportionate in light of the effect of Article 34 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union.

We would recommend that any local authority considering the implementation of a local minimum unit pricing policy seeks comprehensive legal advice before putting such a policy in place.

Animal Experiments: Primates

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will maintain the commitment not to permit the use of great apes in scientific procedures. [59945]

James Brokenshire: The UK currently operates a policy ban on the use of great apes in scientific research covered by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. I cannot currently envisage any circumstances in a particular case which would justify a change to this approach.

Arts: Immigration Control

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the maximum permitted length of stay under each Tier Five Government-authorised exchange scheme is. [60024]

Damian Green: The maximum permitted period of stay under the Tier 5 Government-authorised exchange category is 24 months.

Children: Protection

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects on the effectiveness of child protection of reductions to police budgets. [59831]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 15 June 2011]*: Child protection is an absolute priority for the Government and we are committed to ensuring we have the best possible arrangements in place to protect children and families from harm.

The police play an important part in local child safeguarding arrangements and have a statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in England and to investigate child abuse and other crimes committed against children.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) have recently carried out a scoping review of child protection resources and found no evidence to suggest that any force has made or intends to make reductions to its public protection units, in particular its child protection teams. ACPO have also identified good work that is being driven locally to enhance safeguarding through stronger partnership working, and are working with forces to make these good practice models available nationally.

Cycling: Theft

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cycle thefts were reported in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* London in the most recent period for which figures are available. [59816]

Nick Herbert: There were 106,693 theft of pedal cycle offences recorded by the police in England and Wales in 2010. Of these, 22,381 offences were recorded in London.

Departmental Employment

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many managers at grade C or above have left the employment of her Department in the last two financial years; and how many of those managers have subsequently been employed by Sodexo; [59985]

(2) how many managers at grade C or above have left the employment of her Department in the last two financial years; and how many of those managers have subsequently been employed by Mitie; [59987]

(3) how many managers at grade C or above have left the employment of her Department in the last two financial years; and how many of those managers have subsequently been employed by Reliance. [59989]

Damian Green: In the financial year 2009-10, 1,144 managers at grade C or above left the Department.

In the financial year 2010-11, 1,404 managers at grade C or above left the Department.

(Figures are provided as per Office for National Statistics headcount definition—paid civil servants only.)

The Department fully complies with the rules and guidance set out by the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments regarding employment of ex-civil servants, see:

http://acoba.independent.gov.uk/rules_and_guidance_civil_servants.aspx.

We are unable to provide data on the number of managers who have subsequently been employed by *(a)* Sodexo, *(b)* Mitie and *(c)* Reliance. Individuals at director general and permanent secretary level who are given permission under the Rules and Guidance on Business Appointments must inform the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments if they take up employment following approval. Individuals below this level are not required to notify the Department that they have taken up employment following approval.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made in encouraging small businesses to bid for Government contracts. [60183]

Damian Green: Recognising the important contribution small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) make to the economy, the Home Department has fully published its plans to meet the Government's commitment to allow SMEs to compete more fairly for governmental contracts on its commercial website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/procurement/

The Department has helped small businesses reduce the barriers they face in bidding for government contracts by simplifying processes and linking the Home Office website to the Supply2.gov.uk portal where we advertise lower value contract opportunities.

The website has also been linked to provide access to opportunities through the Contracts Finder website and Tenders Electronic Daily. In addition, the Department has provided clear links and contact points for additional information and queries. This information enables SMEs to access relevant procurement data, details of how they can potentially work with the Department (either directly, through the supply chain or as part of a consortium) and details of what the Department buys.

The Department is continuing with further work to evaluate its procurement activity to establish areas of goods and services which can be delivered by SMEs. This evaluation will inform our procurement approach and ensure we maximise opportunities for such enterprises.

Drugs: Young People

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to address drug misuse amongst the migrant youth population. [59809]

James Brokenshire: Drugs misuse among young people, including the migrant youth population, is being addressed through the Drug Strategy 2010.

There are three strands to the Strategy: reducing demand; restricting supply; and building recovery in communities. The reducing demand theme outlines our approach to preventing young people taking drugs in the first place and, for those already misusing drugs, intervening early and providing support to help them stop their drugs use. By working with the Department for Education and others we are ensuring young people have access to information on drugs—and the effects and harms of drugs—via schools through the internal review of Personal, Social, Health and Economic education and review of the National Curriculum and the FRANK drugs information and support service.

The Strategy recognises that particular groups of young people may be at increased risk of drug misuse. Approaches to identifying the needs of young people and the appropriate support are best made at the local level. For those young people who already misuse drugs we are ensuring they have rapid access to specialist support through local substance misuse and youth offending services.

To facilitate this we are encouraging local services to work together by simplifying the funding mechanisms that are used to deliver tailored interventions in local areas for young people and families.

The focus of the Strategy as far as young people are concerned is preventing the escalation of drug misuse by young people to stop them becoming drug dependent adults.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of Pakistani nationals who travelled to the UK in each of the last three years. [60083]

Damian Green: The available statistics relate to the number of journeys made by Pakistani nationals given leave to enter the UK, for the period 2007 to 2009. Passengers who make more than one journey in a calendar year are counted on each occasion. The statistics are given in the following table:

Pakistani nationals[1] given leave to enter the United Kingdom, 2007 to 2009

	Number of journeys
2007	235,000
2008	243,000
2009[2]	214,000

[1] Figures rounded to three significant figures.
[2] Provisional figures.
Source:
Migration Statistics, Home Office Statistics.

Statistics on passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom by nationality and purpose of journey are published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom". These publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1

Human Trafficking

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has provided to non-governmental organisations on its consultation on the human trafficking strategy. [59939]

Damian Green: The Government held a series of workshops with non-governmental organisations to inform the development of the human trafficking strategy.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been employed by the UK Human Trafficking Centre in each of the last five years. [58955]

Damian Green: The UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) was created in 2008 and was hosted by South Yorkshire police until it became part of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) on 1 April 2010.

As at 31 March 2011 the number of people employed to work in the UKHTC in each year that it has been in operation is as follows:

Financial year	*Number of employees as at 31 March of each year*
2008-09	[1]25
2009-10	[1]25
2010-11	[2]37

[1] These figures show the number of people employed by South Yorkshire police to work in the UKHTC and do not include secondees from SOCA, UKBA or other agencies. The figures also exclude contractors who may have been employed by South Yorkshire police to work for UKHTC on a temporary basis.
[2] 35 of the 37 employees were SOCA staff and two were UKBA staff on attachment. These figures do not include additional resources which UKHTC, as a part of SOCA, can draw on when required. The UKHTC is further supported by partners in the public, private and charity sectors.

Immigration: Crime

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many emails sent to the UK Border Agency public email address UKBApublications@ukba.gsi.gov.uk, to report suspected immigration crime were received successfully in the latest period for which figures are available. [59997]

Damian Green: The information requested is as follows:

Allegation e-mails received in the public inquiries mailbox

Period	*Number*
Week beginning 14 June 2010-week ending 4 July 2010	1,948
Week beginning 5 July-week ending 1 August 2010	2,958
Week beginning 2 August-week ending 5 September 2010	3,494
Week beginning 6 September-week ending 3 October 2010	2,760
Week beginning 4 October-week ending 31 October 2010	2,609
Week beginning 1 November-week ending 5 December 2010	3,367
Week beginning 6 December2010-week ending 2 January 2011	2,890
Week beginning 3 January-week ending 30 January 2011	2,343
Week beginning 31 January-week ending 27 February 2011	2,800
Week beginning 28 February-week ending 27 March 2011	2,647
Week beginning 28 March-week ending 1 May 2011	2,829
Week beginning 2 May 2011-week ending 29 May 2011	2,658
Week beginning 30 May-week ending 13 June 2011	1,065
Total	34,368

Knives

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the contribution of the knife amnesty boxes to combating knife crime. [59028]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office has not undertaken a recent assessment of knife amnesty boxes.

The Government believe that individual police forces, local authorities and other partners are best placed to decide when to run an amnesty and assess the impact an amnesty could have in their locality.

The last national knife amnesty was held in England and Wales between 24 May and 30 June 2006; in Scotland from 25 May 2006 for one month; and, in Northern Ireland from 25 May 2006 for three weeks.

According to figures supplied by the police, this national amnesty resulted in over 89,000 items being handed in.

National Crime Agency: Finance

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to allocate funding to the National Crime Agency to compensate victims of crimes. [59925]

James Brokenshire: Policy responsibility for the compensation of victims of crime falls under the remit of the Ministry of Justice. There are no plans to allocate funding to victims of crime via the National Crime Agency.

Police

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of each of the four police and crime commissioners in Wales during their four-year mandate. [53181]

Nick Herbert: The running costs of Police and Crime Commissioners should be no more than police authorities currently. The only additional cost to the taxpayer under the new system will be that of elections. Democratic accountability will create a sharp incentive on Police and Crime Commissioners to cut bureaucracy, increase efficiency and drive down costs, ensuring that forces focus on the policing the public want.

As stated in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill's impact assessment, elections for Police and Crime Commissioners in England and Wales will cost £50 million in 2012. These estimates are based on the costs of other national elections and costings are, therefore, not available for each force area. However, the money was allocated separately by the Treasury as part of the comprehensive spending review; no money for elections will come out of police force budgets.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which police authority area each local authority in England and Wales, excluding London, is situated. [58971]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is shown in the tables placed in the House Library.

Police: Accountability

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* emails she has received supporting her proposals for elected police commissioners. [59677]

Nick Herbert: My Department is in regular receipt of many letters and e-mails on the Government's proposals for strengthening police accountability. An analysis of this kind could be made only at disproportionate cost.

Police: Demonstrations

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department provides to police authorities on the levels of charges for the costs of policing payable by the organisers of *(a)* marches, *(b)* parades and *(c)* protests. [59651]

Nick Herbert: The police do not levy a charge for the policing of marches or protests. Consequently no guidance is produced on this issue. In respect of 'parades' or other events, the police have the power to charge for policing at any commercial event under section 25 of the Police Act 1996. No specific guidance has been produced by the Home Office in respect of charging for these events.

Police: Housing

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many properties were provided by territorial police forces for the use of police officers and staff in *(a)* the London Borough of Westminster, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* England and Wales in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such provision in each year. [59323]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold this information centrally. The majority of police funding is not ring-fenced and decisions on how it is spent are for the chief constable and police authority to take locally.

Police: Pay

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what impact assessment has been undertaken on the effects of proposals to suspend incremental increases in police pay. [58513]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 9 June 2011]:* The proposed suspension of incremental pay increases for police officers and staff to which my hon. Friend refers is one of the recommendations in the first report published by Tom Winsor from his independent review of police remuneration and conditions of service. The full report is available at:

http://review.police.uk

and at the Vote Office.

Quilliam: Finance

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding from the public purse was provided to the Quilliam Foundation in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12. [60162]

James Brokenshire: Funding from the Home Office was provided to Quilliam as follows:

(a) £664,908.00

(b) £387,382.10

(c) £158,906.66

(d) (to date) £26,993.34

The above figures reflect funding provided to Quilliam solely by the Home Office. Other departments may also have provided funding to Quilliam, but this is not included in the figures provided here.

Repatriation: Kosovo

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Kosovan asylum seekers were repatriated in each year since 2000. [60060]

Damian Green: The following table shows the number of Kosovan asylum seekers, including dependants, who were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK to the recorded destination of Kosovo in each year from 2004 to 2010.

Removals and voluntary departures[1,2,3] of asylum cases, nationals of Kosovo to Kosovo, 2004 to 2010

	Number of departures[4,5]
2004[6]	970
2005[6]	755
2006[6]	485
2007[7]	320
2008[7]	140
2009[7,8]	110
2010[7,8]	40

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

[2] Includes enforced removals, persons departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes and since January 2005 persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[3] Figures include dependants.

[4] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

[5] Destination as recorded on source database.

[6] Management information; figures are approximate.

[7] National Statistics.

[8] Provisional figures.

Destination data have only been recorded since 2004; therefore requested data for each year between 2000 and 2003 are not available.

Data for the years 2004 to 2006 are based on management information and are approximate. This is due to data quality issues with the recording of Kosovan cases on the UK Border Agency Case Information Database (CID) prior to the state union of Serbia and Montenegro coming to an end in June 2006. Data from 2007 onwards are National Statistics.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Science, Research and Statistics web pages at:

http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statisticsl/

Telephone Tapping: Newspaper Press

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish the information she holds on the terms of reference for the Operation Weeting inquiry into hacking being undertaken by the Metropolitan Police. [59641]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 June 2011]:* The terms of reference and the conduct of Operation Weeting are operational matters for the Metropolitan Police Service and the Home Office does not hold the information requested.

Theft

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes have been reported involving pickpockets in each of the last three years. [59103]

Nick Herbert: Crime statistics supplied to the Home Office from police forces are based on counts of notifiable offences. Thefts involving pick-pocketing will be included within the offence category of 'theft from the person' but this group will also include other thefts, such as theft of a purse from a shopping trolley.

Published figures for England and Wales show that there were 101,650 recorded offences of theft from the person in 2007-08, 89,662 offences in 2008-09 and 92,271 offences in 2009-10.

Visas: Kosovo

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK visas have been granted to citizens of Kosovo in each of the last five years. [60059]

Damian Green: The number of visas issued to Kosovo nationals for the years 2006 to 2010 is:

	Number
2006	0
2007	44
2008	182
2009	2,185
2010	3,268

	Number
Total	5,679

The data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change

West Midlands Police

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the rate of employee attrition for *(a)* civilian staff and *(b)* warranted officers in West Midlands Police was in each of the last five years; [59087]

(2) how many *(a)* civilian staff and *(b)* warranted officers West Midlands Police employed in each financial year since 2002-03. [59088]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 10 June 2011]:* The available figures for West Midlands police force show the rate of employee attrition for civilian staff and warranted officers from 2005-06 to 2009-10 and are shown on table A. For the purposes of this answer, we have taken employee attrition to mean the total number of leavers during the financial year as a percentage of total number of staff in post at the end of the financial year. Table B shows the number of civilian and warranted officers employed in West Midlands police force from 2002-03 to 2009-10.

Table A: Rate of employee attrition (FTE)[1] for civilian staff and warranted officers, West Midlands police force from 2005-06 to 2009-10

	Leavers[2]		*Strength*[3]		*Employee Attrition*[4]	
	Civilian Staff[5]	*Warranted Officers*[6]	*Civilian Staff*[5]	*Warranted Officers*[6]	*Civilian Staff*[5] *(percentage)*	*Warranted Officers*[6] *(percentage)*
2005-06	259	488	3,300	8,192	8	6
2006-07	270	475	3,343	8,245	8	6
2007-08	263	417	3,436	8,412	8	5
2008-09	238	459	3,570	8,637	7	5
2009-10	221	425	3,667	8,626	6	5

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
[2] Leavers during the financial year.
[3] Strength at the end of financial year.
[4] Employee attrition—leavers during the financial year as a percentage of staff in post at the end of the financial year.
[5] Civilian staff are police staff.
[6] Warranted officers are police officers.

Table B: Number of civilian staff and warranted officers employed (FTE)[1] in West Midlands police force from 2002-03 to 2009-10[2]

	Civilian Staff[3]	*Warranted Officers*[4]
2002-03	3,012	7,832
2003-04	3,100	8,008
2004-05	3,143	8,154
2005-06	3,300	8,192
2006-07	3,343	8,245
2007-08	3,436	8,412
2008-09	3,570	8,637
2009-10	3,667	8,626

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
[2] Strength at the end of the reporting period, as at 31 March.
[3] Civilian staff are police staff.
[4] Warranted officers are police officers.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Corruption

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of progress in reducing the level of corruption in Afghanistan since January 2011. [60117]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Corruption in Afghanistan is endemic. The UK Government, including the Department for International Development (DFID), are working closely with the Government of Afghanistan to tackle corruption, enforce the law and improve government accountability at all levels. Progress to date has been mixed. However, since January 2011 a significant achievement has been the establishment of an independent anti-corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC).

The MEC, comprised of Afghans and international experts will assess progress with tackling corruption against agreed benchmarks and the effectiveness of international assistance in support of these efforts. The UK Government played a key role in lobbying for the creation of the MEC and are supporting its development.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development by what date he plans to commit the amounts pledged by his Department as fast start climate finance for developing countries. [59549]

Mr O'Brien: The UK's International Climate Fund (ICF) commitment, announced in the 2010 spending review, fully funds the UK's £1.5 billion Fast Start pledge, of which over one-third has already been committed in 2010. Further activities are under way or in design to ensure that developing countries can achieve real, tangible progress towards low carbon, climate resilient development and reduce deforestation.

Developing Countries: Family Planning

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make it his policy to press his counterparts at the Rio Earth Summit preparatory meetings to *(a)* invest in and *(b)* prioritise family planning services for the purposes of population stabilisation, poverty eradication and sustainable development. [59748]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government recognise the links between population, environmental degradation and stresses on natural resources. DFID will continue to work closely with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), which leads the British Government's preparations for Rio2012, to ensure that critical factors in encouraging more sustainable trajectories of growth are addressed.

Meeting the need for family planning, together with wider investment in girls' education and empowerment, will help reduce unwanted fertility and reduce population growth. DFID is committed to enabling at least 10 million more women in developing countries to use modern methods of family planning by 2015 and, in doing so, prevent more than 5 million unintended pregnancies.

Developing Countries: Law and Order

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on provision of *(a)* law and order services, *(b)* police services, *(c)* prison services including the building of prisons and *(d)* the criminal justice systems in each of the last five years; and what the (i) recipient country and (ii) amount provided was in each case. [59668]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not track spend against the specific categories mentioned in the question as there is some overlap between them. I have placed two tables in the Library of the House providing data by country and year across the two categories currently used by DFID to track spending on Legal and Judicial Development and Security Sector Reform.

Data have been included where there has been expenditure greater than £100,000 in any one of the last five years.

This covers spend by DFID and not total Government spend. Security and Justice is a priority area for the Conflict Pool. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence disburse Conflict Pool resources in this area. Details of official development assistant disbursed through other Government Departments can be found at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Aid-Statistics/Statistic-on-International-Development-2010/

Further detail on DFID's specific projects is available at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/

Developing Countries: Poverty

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will *(a)* attend the Rio Earth Summit preparatory meetings and *(b)* press his counterparts at such meetings to recommit to the Programme of Action on eradicating poverty and ensuring sustainable development agreed at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. [59749]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Decisions regarding ministerial attendance at Rio2012 will be taken in due course. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has overall responsibility for coordinating the British Government's preparations for Rio2012. The Secretary of State for DEFRA will attend meetings in preparation for Rio2012.

The UK supports the Programme of Action from the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) which agreed that population and development are inextricably linked, and that empowering women, advancing gender equality, eliminating violence against women and ensuring women's ability to control their own fertility were essential elements of development policies. We continue to seek appropriate opportunities to advance the ICPD agenda.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Copyright: Music

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the level of licences and fees charged by the Performing Rights Society for the use of radios in the workplace. [59552]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, has not received any such representations recently. The Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my noble Friend Baroness Wilcox, has dealt with a number of letters on the subject of music licensing from Members of Parliament resulting from correspondence with their constituents. Some of these have been about the level of the fees for music licences from collecting societies including PRS for Music.

Departmental Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage charitable giving by Ministers in his Department. [57121]

Mr Davey: All Government Ministers have pledged to undertake a 'one day challenge' with a charity or community group of their choice. This is a clear and public commitment by Ministers to give their time to help others. The pledge aims to inspire others to consider how they might be able to support their communities to benefit themselves, as well as their chosen organisations.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what strategic framework his Department has developed for the delivery of its core functions during the comprehensive spending review period. [59736]

Mr Davey: BIS has published a business plan for 2011-15. This document provides details of how the Department will be delivering on the commitments in the coalition agreement and in the plan for growth. The actions detailed in the business plan will be refreshed annually.

Progress against delivery of these actions is publicly reported every month and a quarterly data summary, due for publication in July, provides an overview of the Department's performance overall.

Delivery of core functions forms part of the Department's ongoing performance and risk monitoring process. Performance against all objectives is regularly reviewed and risks escalated for the consideration of the Department's Executive Board in accordance with the Corporate Governance Code.

Export Credit Guarantees: Zimbabwe

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which projects in Zimbabwe supported by the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) have contributed to the debt owed by Zimbabwe to the ECGD. [59784]

Mr Davey: Exports supported by the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) where debts are outstanding to ECGD are shown as follows.

Project Description

1,500 vehicles and spare parts
300 vehicle kits and spare parts
Construction and commission of a new international airport terminal
Power station refurbishment—Bulawayo
Construction of a pipeline
Design, supply and delivery of transformers and reactors
Gas coke oven
Iron ore crushing equipment
Iron ore sintering plant
Iron ore sintering plant—supplemental
Mobile phone system
Power station refurbishment—Harare and Munyah
Radar equipment, spare parts and servicing
Supply of coke oven plant and machinery
Timber processing plant
Transceiver ancillary equipment

Foreign Investment in UK

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which 10 countries provide the highest level of inward investment in each of the sectors mentioned in the Plan for Growth; and what proportion of such investment by each such country has been in research and development in each of the last 10 years. [59511]

Mr Willetts: It is not possible to provide information of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) funded by country using the Plan for Growth sectors. This is because the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) figures for FDI by sector and country do not use the same sector definitions as the Plan for Growth and much of the sector/country data it does seek to show are not publicly available due to restrictions on data disclosure.

It is also not possible to estimate what proportion of investment by each such country has been in UK research and development. While the ONS collect data on FDI flows to the UK by country, the ONS do not publish a disaggregation by source country of inward investment made specifically into research and development.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* representations and *(b)* research he has received on the relative performance of UK-domiciled full-time first degree qualifiers at (i) Oxford and (ii) Cambridge Universities who previously attended independent schools. [59964]

Mr Willetts: I have received a small number of representations about the relative performance of pupils from independent schools at Oxford and Cambridge.

I have recently received two new pieces of research on the topic, both undertaken by admissions staff and tutors at the university of Cambridge:

"The Predictive Effectiveness of Metrics in Admission to Cambridge University"

"School Background is not a factor in Cambridge degree success"

Both reports are available on the Cambridge Admissions website at

http://www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/research/

These reports add to recent studies which focus on the performance of pupils at Oxford and Cambridge:

"Schooling effects on degree performance: a comparison of the predictive validity of aptitude testing and secondary school grades at Oxford University", Ogg, Zimdars and Heath, British Educational Research Journal, 2009

"The Effect of School Background on Value-Added at Oxbridge", McCrum, Brundin and Halsey, Oxford Magazine, 2006

On 8 June the Cabinet Office hosted a seminar, attended by officials from my Department, which brought together key researchers—including some of the authors of the above studies—admissions tutors and other stakeholders to discuss the findings of these and other research studies.

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 645-46W, on higher education: admissions, (1) how many *(a)* UK domiciled and *(b)* non-UK domiciled full-time first degree qualifiers achieved each degree classification at a UK higher education institution in the academic year 2009-10; [60242]

(2) how many UK-domiciled full-time first degree qualifiers at UK higher education institutions who previously attended a state school achieved each degree classification in the academic year 2009-10. [60244]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the table. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will be available in January 2012.

Full-time first degree qualifiers by domicile, degree classification and previous school type, UK higher education institutions, academic year 2009/10

Degree classification	*UK domiciled*[1]	*of which: previously attended state school*	*Non-UK domiciled*
First class	36,300	16,625	6,445

Full-time first degree qualifiers by domicile, degree classification and previous school type, UK higher education institutions, academic year 2009/10

Degree classification	*UK domiciled*[1]	*of which: previously attended state school*	*Non-UK domiciled*
Upper second	127,090	59,120	18,445
Lower second	70,790	28,730	15,535
Third class / Pass	14,160	4,785	5,005
Total classified	248,340	109,260	45,435

[1] The figure for all UK domiciled qualifiers will include those whose previous school type was unknown. In 2009/10, 13% of the data were missing/unknown.

Notes:

Figures are based on a HESA qualifications obtained population and have been rounded to the nearest five. Certain qualifications gained at first degree level are not subject to classification of the award, notably medical and general degrees. These together with ordinary degrees and aegrotat qualifications will be excluded from this analysis.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 645-46W, on higher education: admissions, how many UK-domiciled first degree qualifiers at *(a)* Oxford University, *(b)* Cambridge University and *(c)* Russell Group universities who previously attended (i) state schools and (ii) independent schools achieved each degree classification in the academic year 2009-10. [60243]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the table.

UK domiciled first degree qualifiers[1] *by institution and previous school type*[2]*. UK higher education institutions. Academic year 2009/10*

	Russell Group		*Of which: Oxford*		*Of which: Cambridge*	
Degree classification	*State*	*Independent*	*State*	*Independent*	*State*	*Independent*
First class	6,180	2,340	380	350	255	260
Upper second	18,350	8,295	835	830	670	660
Lower second	5,545	2,105	95	65	95	85
Third class/pass	805	310	10	10	25	15
Total classified	30,880	13,045	1,320	1,260	1,045	1,015

[1] Covers qualifiers from both full-time and part-time first degree courses.

[2] As well as state and independent schools, other categories included in previous school type are FE institution, HE institution and unknown/missing. These categories are excluded from the figures in the table.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA qualifications obtained population and have been rounded to the nearest five. Certain qualifications gained at first degree level are not subject to classification of the award, notably medical and general degrees. These together with ordinary degrees and aegrotat qualifications will be excluded from this analysis.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Disadvantaged

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds who will go to university in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [60067]

Mr Willetts: The Government do not make estimates of the number of people who will attend university from different backgrounds. It is expected that the total number of places in 2011/12 will be broadly similar to 2010/11. The Government are committed to access to higher education being based on talent and potential irrespective of background, and the coalition agreement recognises the need to attract a higher proportion of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Higher Education: North West England

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people normally resident in Warrington North constituency applied to attend higher education institutions in the academic year *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how many such applications were successful in each ward. [59343]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the table and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Applicants who were not accepted for entry will include: individuals who did not receive any offer; individuals who received an offer (conditional or unconditional) but decided not to go to university; individuals who received a conditional offer and failed to meet the specific conditions (e.g. they did not achieve certain grades); and individuals who decided to withdraw from the UCAS system.

Applicants and accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses at UK institutions from Warrington North constituency by electoral ward 2009/10 and 2010/11

	2009		*2010*	
Ward	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*
Birchwood	86	75	108	88
Burtonwood and Winwick	61	52	43	30
Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft	102	83	137	112
Fairfield and Howley	67	47	83	57

Applicants and accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses at UK institutions from Warrington North constituency by electoral ward 2009/10 and 2010/11

	2009		2010	
Ward	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*
Orford	55	45	74	55
Poplars and Hulme	68	60	84	56
Poulton North	69	54	80	59
Poulton South	61	49	61	44
Rixton and Woolston	94	77	73	61
Westbrook	95	83	70	57
Grand total	758	625	813	619

Notes:
1. Figures cover applications to higher education courses at higher education institutions (HEIs) and further education colleges (FECs).
2. Figures do not include applicants to higher education who do not apply through UCAS (i.e. people who apply directly to institutions).
Source:
UCAS

Higher Education: Research

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to increase financial support for early career and postdoctoral researchers in universities. [59833]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 15 June 2011]:* The UK's research base is a vital national asset and critical to long-term economic growth. Despite enormous pressure on public spending, the funding for science and research programmes has been protected in cash terms at £4.6 billion for each year of the spending review within a ring-fence. Maintaining a substantial flow of new researchers was indentified as a priority in the allocations to the research councils, Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the national academies.

The research councils UK strategic vision includes the promotion of high level skills and states that they will consolidate and focus support for people giving greater attention to establishing the careers of the best early career researchers. The financial allocations to the research councils for the comprehensive spending review period 2011 to 2015 will ensure that the research councils maintain significant support for early career and postdoctoral researchers.

BIS funds a number of early and mid-career fellowship programmes run by the three national academies: these enable the brightest and best academics to work full-time on research and were given priority when negotiating funding allocations. BIS funding for these programmes increases in each year of the current spending review period.

The main funders of research in the UK are all signatories to The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers which has the overall aim of increasing the attractiveness and sustainability of research careers in the UK and improving the quantity, quality and impact of research for the benefit of UK society and the economy.

A significant number of early career and postdoctoral researchers are, of course, employed directly by individual universities and it is up to them to decide on the levels of financial support and other available assistance provided.

Horticulture: Imports

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to implement a UK trade ban on the import of horticultural products following the recent E. coli outbreak in Germany for the purposes of protecting UK producers from price competition arising from cheap, surplus stock exported from *(a)* Spain and *(b)* other EU member states. [59528]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

The E. coli outbreak has had a disruptive economic impact on growers and others within the supply chain for fruit and vegetables across the EU, including our domestic industry.

At retail level, prices for domestically produced salad (lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet peppers and courgettes), have remained relatively stable, although demand continues to decline. As a result more produce is being sent to the wholesale market, which is experiencing consequential price movements. Surplus EU produce has been directed to alternative EU markets, including our own, with similar consequences for prices, although I understand that prices for English produce are faring better than those for imported produce. But the situation continues to develop and the latest indications from our trade organisations are that the market remains depressed, which is not helped by retail demand for salad crops in particular being sensitive to the weather.

While there has been an impact on our industry it would be against both the single common market organisation and World Trade Organisation rules to implement a trade ban for the purposes of protecting domestic producers from price competition. However, the welcome news that the Russian Federation has lifted its ban on imports of fruit and vegetables from the European Union is an important development, which should start to alleviate the pressure on volumes and prices being experienced on the domestic market.

Overseas Students: English Language

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received from English universities about English language testing for overseas students; and what steps he has taken in response to such representations. [59562]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 14 June 2011]:* I have received representations from a number of vice-chancellors about the difficulties universities are experiencing with the implementation of the new English language requirements and I am also in close contact with Professor Steve Smith, President of Universities UK. I have discussed the universities' concerns with the Minister for Immigration, my hon. Friend the Member for Ashford (Damian Green) and he has meanwhile met a group of university representatives to clarify the new requirements.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will put in place transitional arrangements to enable universities to apply the 2010-11 entry criteria for international students to candidates who have already applied for entry for 2011-12 prior to full implementation of the requirement for students to meet level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages in all four components; and if he will make a statement. [59769]

Damian Green: I have been asked to reply.

The new, tighter requirements for English language for Tier 4 students are expected to help eliminate abuse of the system by ensuring that only genuine students who are able to complete the course can come to the UK. Universities and other higher education institutions have some flexibility in how best to ensure that their students meet the English language requirements, including a transitional measure for this year only in relation to students enrolling on a pre-sessional course before the main course of study. The UK Border Agency has published further detail and clarification on the new requirements on its website.

Patents: International Co-operation

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to encourage the European Patent Office to pursue work-sharing with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Japan Patent Office. [59965]

Mr Davey: Following encouragement from the Government through the Intellectual Property Office, the European Patent Office has increasingly engaged in work-sharing initiatives with other Patent Offices, including the Japanese Patent Office, the United States Patent and Trademark Office and other large Patent Offices.

The UK continues to work closely with the European Patent Office in identifying ways in which work sharing can help reduce duplication of effort by offices, and reduce global patent backlogs.

The importance of addressing increasing delays in the patent system was underlined by the findings a UK Government-commissioned report published in March 2010. That study found that an additional year's pendency would cost business £7.6 billion and was expected within five years on current trends.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 108W, on students: loans, what proportion of students currently taking up places in higher education pay upfront fees. [58412]

Mr Willetts: We estimate that around 14% of English domiciled full-time undergraduate students who studied in the UK and were eligible for full tuition fee support in 2009/10 did not take out fee loans from the Student Loans Company to cover their fees.

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average level of fees for part-time courses in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [60239]

Mr Willetts: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 8 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 400W.

Students: Finance

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of undergraduate loans were awarded to students whose household income was *(a)* less than £25,000, *(b)* between £25,000 and £42,600 and *(c)* greater than £42,600 where the student lived (i) at home and (ii) away from home in each of the last five years. [59067]

Mr Willetts: The requested information is not available, as many loans are not means tested, and the income details of students applying for non means tested support are not held centrally.

Tuition fee loans are not means tested. Students can apply for a non-means tested maintenance loan without supplying income details; this is worth up to 72% of the maximum possible amount of maintenance loan. In addition, income details are not collected from continuing students who have indicated that their income has not changed significantly since the previous year.

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average undergraduate loan was for students who lived *(a)* at home or *(b)* away from home in each of the last five years. [59069]

Mr Willetts: The information can be found in the following tables.

Average student loan awarded[1] to applicants domiciled in England

	Maintenance loan				
	Average amount awarded (£)				
Location	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*	*2010/11[2]*
Living at home	2,820	2,660	2,560	2,590	2,630
Living elsewhere	3,810	3,770	3,790	3,870	3,910
Total	3,600	3,540	3,530	3,600	3,650

	Tuition fee loan				
	Average amount awarded (£)				
Location	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*	*2010/11[2]*
Living at home	1,980	2,460	2,800	2,960	3,060
Living elsewhere	1,780	2,340	2,780	2,990	3,110
Total	1,820	2,360	2,780	2,980	3,100

[1] The figures above show awards of student support. Some awards do not lead to payment because the applicant does not secure a place or does not attend. Figures on loans paid cannot be broken down by living at home or elsewhere, therefore total figures above are slightly different to published figures on loans paid. Published figures on the awards situation two months into the academic year are different to those above which show the final awards position, except for 2010/11.

[2] 2010/11 data are provisional.

Source:
Student Loans Company

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to his Department's publication Thinking of Going to University in 2012, what assessment he has made of the potential effect on students from low-income households of the planned rate of interest applied to student loans; and whether he plans to carry out an equality impact assessment. [59221]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 10 June 2011]:* Generally, no undergraduate student studying for their first, full-time qualification will have to contribute to their higher education until they are in a job, and earning over £21,000. As now, the repayment will be 9% of income above the threshold. The repayment period will be a maximum of 30 years. Interest will be set at RPI (retail prices index) + 3% while in study, and once the borrower is liable to repay, interest will vary according to income. If earning £21,000 or less, interest will be set at RPI, and gradually it will increase up to a rate of RPI + 3% for those earning £41,000 or more.

This will mean that those who choose modestly paid or unpaid work—which may include time spent bringing up a family—will not be asked to make a contribution and will only be charged the lowest rate of interest. And where someone is contributing and ceases work or begins to earn under the threshold, contributions will cease and the interest rate will decrease.

An interim impact assessment was published in November 2010 which looked at the reforms to higher education funding and student finance and this set out that the new system is more progressive to benefit those who earn less in future.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 17 June 2011

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Attorney-General (1) what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by the Law Officers' Departments between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate he has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation; [60488]

(2) what regulations the Law Officers' Departments introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation were for those affected in each case. [60395]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments have not revoked or introduced any regulations during 2011.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Attorney-General for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 his Departments are responsible; and what European directives for which his Departments are responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60683]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments have no responsibility for any EU Directives.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Arms Trade: Libya

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what licences have been granted for the export of weapons or military hardware to Libya since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [59424]

Mr Prisk: This information is published in the Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls. These reports contain detailed information on export licences issued, refused or revoked, by destination, including the overall value, type (e.g. Military, Other) and a summary of the items covered by these licences. They are available to view on the Strategic Export Controls: Reports and Statistics website at:

https://www.exportcontroldb.berr.gov.uk/eng/fox

Currently this includes information up to 31 December 2010. Information covering 1 January 2011 to 31 March will be published in July this year.

Banks: Regulation

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report,* columns 217-8W, on banks: regulation, what options for further action he has considered in relation to banks that fail to meet lending targets as set out by Project Merlin. [59801]

Mr Prisk: As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made clear before the Commons Liaison Committee on 17 May, and as the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend, the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable) said again before the BIS Select Committee on 8 June, the first step should be to try to make Project Merlin work in the way that was intended. Although these are early days, we want to see significant improvement over the next few months. We will monitor the banks' performance extremely closely and, in particular, look at the issue of discouraged demand.

If the banks fail to meet their side of the agreement we reserve the right to revisit our side of the agreement, including with regard to new levies on profits and bonuses.

In the meantime, we will continue to put pressure on the banks to improve relationships with their small business customers starting with exploring options to push for greater transparency on how they assess and price risks.

I have also written to the banks to ask them to outline precisely how the incentives for their senior managers are linked to small and medium enterprise lending.

Business: Billing

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to strengthen the Prompt Payment Code. [58354]

Mr Prisk: The Prompt Payment Code is a voluntary code developed and managed by the Institute of Credit Management (ICM). We encourage all public sector bodies and private sector businesses to become signatories to the code.

Government believe that it is important that the public sector sets a strong example. So central Government Departments now aim to pay 80% of undisputed invoices within five days. To ensure the benefits of prompt payment to main contractors are felt through the supply chain and benefit smaller businesses, all Departments have included a clause in their contracts that requires main contractors to pay their suppliers within 30 days.

The wider public sector is also performing better than ever before. The Forum of Private Business surveyed all UK local authorities and reported that the average payment time is 18 days in England and that 42% of invoices are now being paid within 10 days.

The full list of signatories to the code can be found on the Institute of Credit Management website at:

http://www.promptpaymentcode.org.uk/

Business: Industrial Health and Safety

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the merits of *(a)* requiring low-risk and high-risk business to meet different levels of health and safety regulation and *(b)* tailoring legislation and enforcement to the risk level of the work place; and if he will make a statement. [58870]

Mr Prisk: Businesses in the same sector and often of similar sizes are normally subject to the same baseline standards of regulation regardless of the risk they might pose. This is because most regulatory requirements are of general application, which means that they apply to their addressees equally. This is necessary to ensure consistency and a level-playing field across the regulatory landscape.

However, while similar businesses may be required to meet the same levels of regulation, the enforcement of the regulation may, and should, be varied according to risk. The Regulators' Compliance Code (issued under the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006) gives statutory effect to these principles. The Code requires regulators to ensure that all aspects of their regulatory activity are informed by risk.

The Government agrees that legislation and enforcement should reflect levels of risk and how well these are controlled. To that end, we have commissioned an independent review of health and safety legislation, led by Professor Lofstedt. We plan to reform Britain's health and safety system and ensure we reduce unnecessary burdens on business while maintaining standards of protection.

The following support the drive to reduce burdens:

In March 2010, the Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling), announced that leading risk management specialist Professor Ragnar E Lofstedt would chair a review of all health and safety regulation, with a view to simplifying the rules and easing the unnecessary burdens on business. The review is due to report in the autumn.

We continue to simplify legislation and provide better targeted guidance for businesses so that they do not waste time on unnecessary bureaucracy. Example risk assessments for low risk workplaces are published on the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) website at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/casestudies/index.htm

and HSE has just completed its public consultation on amending the law to reduce the number of 'lost-time' accident reports businesses need to make—see the following website:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2011/hse-riddor.htm

Inspection and investigation activities are targeted at those who create the most serious risks. HSE has no plans to proactively inspect low risk workplaces which would be counter to the principles of proportionate enforcement—see HSE's Enforcement Policy Statement at the following website:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hse41.pdf

Construction: Contracts

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received on *(a)* payment terms and *(b)* payment periods imposed on sub-contractors by contractors in the construction industry. [58819]

Mr Prisk: The Department has received a number of representations on payment terms and payment periods from firms in the construction industry. Typically these raise the following issues:

Main contractors not paying subcontractors for lengthy periods, up to 120 days;

Main contractors withholding retentions from subcontractors;

Main contractors reducing the contractually agreed price of work done by up to 25% on completion;

Main contractors not paying subcontractors at all.

Electronic Commerce

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department provides to UK firms seeking to improve their internet marketing. [58353]

Mr Prisk: The Government's online channel to all businesses providing information and advice, and information on internet marketing, is available through:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

This includes information on how to develop and generate information from an e-marketing plan, search engine optimisation and how to measure online marketing activity.

Environmental Protection

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had to discuss the green economy roadmap since January 2011; and who was present at each such meeting. [56529]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* The Roadmap to a Green Economy was discussed at a formal meeting of the Green Economy Council on 16 February. The meeting was attended by the following:

Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills; Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change; Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Minister of State for Business and Enterprise; Lord Henley, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Tom Crotty, Ineos; Joe Greenwell, Ford; Stephen Leonard, IBM; Andy Reynolds-Smith, GKN; Dan Labbad, and EMEA Lease; Heidi Mottram OBE, Northumbrian Water; Ian Goodfellow, Shanks Plc; Neil Bentley, CBI; Frances O'Grady, TUC; Paul Noon, Prospect; Ian Goldsmith, Tata Steel; Nick Bunker, Kraft; David Frost CBE, British Chambers of Commerce; Peter Young, Aldersgate Group; Neil Schofield, Bosch; Dr Mark Lawson-Statham, Intelligent Energy; Shaun Mays, Climate Change Capital; Mike Rolls, Siemens; Phil Bentley, Centrica; and officials from the three Departments.

Officials from BIS, DECC and DEFRA have held meetings with a range of stakeholders to gather evidence and views to feed into the Roadmap.

Environmental Protection: Liverpool

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he has taken to encourage the growth of the green economy in the Liverpool city region. [58159]

Mr Prisk: The Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has identified the low carbon economy as one of its four key priorities and will work with Government on business opportunities. Liverpool will also be eligible to apply for the establishment of a new Technology and Innovation Centre focusing on offshore renewable energy in a national competition.

The BIS LEP Capacity Fund has awarded the LEP £45,000 to help aid local partners in identifying the actions needed to drive their priorities forward and to better understand their business environment.

The Regional Growth Fund has allocated a project to stimulate small and medium enterprises (SMEs) growth in Liverpool through media advocacy to the Liverpool Echo. Grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 will be distributed to SMEs (including those in the Low Carbon Economy) together with coaching and mentoring.

In addition, from October 2012, small businesses will be able to improve the energy efficiency of their properties at no upfront cost through the Government's Green Deal scheme.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent meetings he has had with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* his EU counterparts on the level of EU regulation. [60731]

Mr Davey: I frequently meet with both European Commission Members and my EU counterparts on a wide range of issues, including to press the case for reducing EU burdens on business. The most recent occasion was at the Competitiveness Council on 30 May, which agreed to reduce the regulatory burden on micro-entities by exempting them from certain accounting rules.

Executives: Females

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress he has made in implementing the recommendations of the report of Lord Davies on women on boards. [60730]

Mr Davey: Implementation has started across the body of Lord Davies of Abersoch's recommendations aimed at increasing the number of women reaching the boardrooms of UK plc, the majority of which are directed at industry.

The executive search community have joined forces to develop a voluntary code of conduct for the sector to abide by and the Financial Reporting Council is currently consulting on changes to the Corporate Governance Code.

The Department for Business will be consulting on greater disclosure in respect of women on boards as part of its work to strengthen narrative reporting. In addition, company chairmen will be encouraged to sign a charter supporting Lord Davies' recommendations.

In October Lord Davies will reconvene his steering board to assess the progress to date and a six monthly progress report will be produced.

Iron and Steel: Industry

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's policy is on support for the steel pipe industry; and if he will make a statement. [59535]

Mr Prisk: We recognise the vital role that the UK steel pipe industry plays in the supply chain in the UK, supplying steel to a range of key industries which underpin many parts of manufacturing. High technology industries like oil, gas and chemicals require high value continually improving steel pipe products.

We work closely with the steel industry, including the steel pipe sector, to minimise unnecessary regulatory burdens by involving the sector in discussions on regulatory policy and other issues that impact on them, for example on the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, energy costs and supply, climate change and environmental protection. Our aim is to avoid unintended consequences and harness the sector's many creative ideas for alternative, lighter touch approaches.

Any Government support for the steel pipe industry needs to meet the requirements in the EC state aid rules which only permit support for research and development (R and D), environmental protection and training within specified limits.

For example, the steel pipe industry has opportunities to participate in collaborative R and D projects funded by the Technology Strategy Board and the EU Research Fund for Coal and Steel.

In addition, UK Trade and Investment has an ongoing and active programme of support for the UK manufacturing sector, including the steel industry, in partnership with numerous stakeholders. This includes organising UK groups at overseas trade shows, leading targeted trade missions and bringing potential buyers and decision-makers to the UK to see our manufacturing capability first-hand.

Manufacturing Advisory Service: West Midlands

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for future funding of the manufacturing advisory service, west midlands, following the closure of advantage west midlands. [58367]

Mr Prisk: Following the closure of the regional development agencies network from March 2012, the delivery of the manufacturing advisory service (MAS) will be undertaken by a single national provider and is fully funded through to the end of this Parliament.

Motor Vehicles: Industry

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's policy is on support for the motor industry; and if he will make a statement. [59315]

Mr Prisk: We have adopted a positive, proactive approach and are working closely with key UK auto companies through the Automotive Council to stimulate new technologies and build stronger supply chains. Automobile manufacturers are bringing production and supply chain contracts back to the UK as evidenced by the recent announcements of new investments by Nissan and BMW. We are determined to help the industry succeed, for example, by setting up the High Value Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Centre, expanding the number of apprenticeships and reducing our rates of corporate tax.

One North East: Assets

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the opportunity costs of the sale on the open market of the assets held by One North East; and if he will make a statement. [59638]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 431W.

Railways: East Midlands

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the importance of the rail technology industry to *(a)* the east midlands and *(b)* Derby; [58771]

(2) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* industrial, *(b)* economic and *(c)* social impact on (i) the east midlands and (ii) Derby of (A) a contraction and (B) an expansion in the rail technology industry. [58772]

Mr Prisk: We have made no such assessments. However, information on the capability of the rail supply chain and the enablers and barriers to the efficient operation of that supply chain was submitted to the Sir Roy McNulty review examining value-for-money in the railway industry. The McNulty report entitled "Realising the Potential of GB Rail" was published on 19 May and includes a range of recommendations to improve value for money in the rail industry including with regard to supply chain management. The Government are now considering how the recommendations will feed into wider proposals for reform of the rail industry before the end of the year.

In addition, the east midlands development agency, and the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chambers, supported a report—"Planes, trains and automobiles"—commissioned by Derby city council and published in December 2009 that looked at the importance of these sectors to the region.

Trade Promotion

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information on foreign markets his Department provides to UK companies. [58352]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) is the Government Department that helps UK-based companies succeed in the global economy.

UKTI provides expert trade advice and practical support to UK-based companies wishing to access overseas markets. Support includes market specific information and is provided in the UK and in-market through UKTI's extensive network of specialists in the UK and in British embassies and other diplomatic offices around the world.

Specific services include market research, details of overseas business opportunities, participation in trade missions and seminars, opportunities to exhibit at key trade events and access to major buyers, governments and specific supply chains in overseas markets.

The UKTI website gives initial access to information on UKTI services, including how to contact a local international trade adviser or country-specific contact:

www.ukti.gov.uk

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what regulations his Department introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation were for those affected in each case. [60396]

Mr Maude: No regulations were introduced by the Cabinet Office during the period between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by his Department between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate he has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation. [60501]

Mr Maude: No regulatory measures were revoked by the Cabinet Office during the period between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011.

Emergencies

Mr Bone: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment he has made of the Government's preparedness for civil emergencies. [59936]

Mr Maude: Departments are responsible for ensuring that they and their sponsored sectors have robust contingency plans in place to respond to civil emergencies. The Civil Contingencies Secretariat works closely with them providing support and assistance as necessary. Where gaps are identified, resources are directed to address them on a risk assessed basis. I believe that these arrangements provide a sound basis for emergency preparedness and response within central Government. This has been demonstrated in effective central Government response to a number of recent civil emergencies.

Energy: Prices

Mr Weir: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will request the Office for National Statistics to prepare and publish an index of domestic prices *(a)* in total and *(b)* separately for (i) gas and (ii) electricity for each year since 2007. [60407]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck dated 16 June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking if the ONS could produce an overall index for domestic prices and also separate indices for gas and electricity for every year since 2007 [PQ60407].

ONS produces two main measures of consumer inflation, the consumer prices index (CPI) and the retail prices index (RPI). The CPI measures inflation for the UK as a whole whilst the RPI inflation measure covers the vast majority of the UK household sector. The information requested on both bases is given below.

Table 1: CPI and RPI: annual inflation rates for all items, gas and electricity

	CPI			*RPI*		
	Total	*Gas*	*Electricity*	*Total*	*Gas*	*Electricity*
2007	2.3	7.6	8.0	4.3	7.7	8.0
2008	3.6	19.4	15.6	4.0	19.8	15.6
2009	2.2	13.4	4.6	-0.5	13.7	4.5
2010	3.3	-5.5	-2.5	4.6	-5.9	-2.5
May 2011	4.5	6.4	4.0	5.2	6.2	4.0

You may be interested to know that these data are updated every month and along with further details about the CPI and RPI can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk==868

Government Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

Caroline Flint: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on how many occasions the Cabinet Secretary has exercised his responsibilities in respect of Civil Service staff disciplinary matters since May 2010. [60428]

Mr Maude: For reasons of confidentiality and trust between an employer and its employees, it would not be appropriate to comment on whether or not the Cabinet Secretary has exercised his responsibilities in respect of civil service staff disciplinary matters.

Pay

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the pay gap between women and men in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector in (i) Wales, (ii) England and (iii) Northern Ireland. [60640]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the pay gap between women and men in the (a) public and (b) private sector in (i) Wales, (ii) England and (iii) Northern Ireland. [60640].

ONS's estimates of gender pay gap are based on median hourly earnings excluding overtime and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The median is the value below which 50 per cent of employees fall. It is ONS's preferred measure of average earnings as it is less affected by a relatively small number of very high earners and the skewed distribution of earnings. It therefore gives a better indication of typical earnings than the mean.

The table presents the information requested on this basis for April 2010, the latest period for which figures are available.

Gender pay gap for employee jobs[1] in the public and private sector for Wales, England and Northern Ireland, 2010

	Percentage pay difference (women/men)		
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*All*
Wales			
Public	6.8	**10.1	16.8
Private	23.0	0.8	27.9
England			
Public	11.7	24.4	20.7
Private	19.8	-2.0	27.3
Northern Ireland			
Public	-1.5	**-3.1	6.4
Private	16.0	*5.9	21.6

[1] Median hourly earnings excluding overtime. Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. As at April 2010. *Guide to quality:* The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5%, we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220. *Key:*
CV <=5% * CV of male part-time hourly pay excluding overtime >5% and <=10% ** CV of male part-time hourly pay excluding overtime >10% and <=20%. *Source:* Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Public Sector: Manpower

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of public sector jobs in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* England and *(c)* Northern Ireland were held by (i) women and (ii) men on the most recent date for which figures are available. [60639]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of public sector jobs in (a) Wales, (b) England and (c) Northern Ireland were held by (i) women and (ii) men on the most recent date for which figures are available. (060639)

Public sector employment statistics for local areas by gender can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey (APS). Table 1 provides the information requested for the most recent APS period, October 2009 to September 2010.

Table 1: Percentage of public sector jobs in Wales, England and Northern Ireland, held by males and females. October 2009-September 2010

	Proportions (percentage)	
	Male	*Female*
Wales	35.4	64.6
England	35.3	64.7
Northern Ireland	34.1	65.9

Source:
Annual Population Survey

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Crown Relocations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts his Department holds with Crown Relocations; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58649]

Robert Neill: The Department holds no contracts with Crown Relocations.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions he has intervened in staff disciplinary matters in his Department since May 2010. [56224]

Robert Neill: None. Staff discipline in the Department is a matter for officials, in line with departmental procedures and the terms of the staff handbook.

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on external legal advice in *(a)* February, *(b)* March, *(c)* April and *(d)* May 2011. [59339]

Robert Neill: Details of all expenditure over £500 are published, each month, on the Department's website. Information regarding February, March and April 2011 may be viewed via the following links. The information for May 2011 has yet to be published. It is likely this will be available during July 2011. Please note that legal advice is coded under "Legal Consultancy" and "Legal Fees".

April 2011 spend

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/spendingdataapr11

March 2011 spend

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/spendingdatamar11

February 2011 spend

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/spendingdatafeb11

As I indicated in a previous answer to the right hon. Member, this compares to a comparable spend of £4.8 million in 2009-10.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50221]

Robert Neill: The amounts are as follows (for the period May 2010 to March 2011): ministerial car, £277,690; train, £8,060; and commercial aircraft, £1,109 (including fees and taxes). A further £431 was spent on Oyster cards which may be used for rail or bus travel. There has been no expenditure on private aircraft.

To provide a comparison, the Department's records show that the following amounts were spent on ministerial travel during the financial year 2009-10: ministerial car, £488,276; train, £18,517[1]; commercial aircraft, £4,503[1] (including fees and taxes). There was no expenditure on private aircraft. Amounts spent on bus travel are not recorded.

Section 10 of the Ministerial Code provides guidance on travel for Ministers and makes clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

[1] This excludes travel made prior to July 2009. The Department changed travel supplier in July 2009 and additional information for the period prior to July 2009 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on travel in respect of *(a)* each of his Department's executive agencies and *(b)* the chief executive of each such agency since May 2010. [56186]

Robert Neill: Between 1 May 2010 and 30 April 2011 the Department's Executive Agencies have spent the following amounts:

		£
DCLG's Executive Agencies	*(a) travel*	*(b) Chief executive's travel*
Fire Service College[1]	126,490.04	7,359.89
Planning Inspectorate	873,139.27	3,380.10
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	22,008.14	87.00

As context, the Department's Executive Agencies spent the following between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010.

		£
DCLG's Executive Agencies	*(a) travel*	*(b) Chief executive's travel*
Fire Service College[1]	349,451.00	6,399.59
Planning Inspectorate	1,242,887.76	6,529.02
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	28,963.74	89.75

[1] Data include expenditure on both travel and subsistence as spend on travel alone could be made available only at disproportionate cost.

Direct Access Platforms

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what information his Department holds on the number of days on which direct access platforms are unavailable due to servicing issues; [60607]

(2) how many fire authorities use external servicing for direct access platforms; and what information his Department holds on the costs of such services. [60606]

Robert Neill: My Department does not hold such information centrally. The use and maintenance of equipment is a matter for individual fire and rescue authorities.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding he plans to provide to Manchester City Council to increase the periodicity of refuse collection. [58869]

Robert Neill: As set out in the Waste Review the Government will be working with local councils to increase the frequency and quality of rubbish collections and make it easier to recycle, and to tackle measures which encourage councils specifically to cut the scope of collections.

The Government understand that the public have a reasonable expectation that household waste collection services should be weekly, particularly for smelly waste.

Waste services are a matter for local authorities to develop fit for purpose local solutions. However the Government believe that better procurement and joint working can improve the efficiency of collections while improving the frontline service for the public in an affordable and practical manner.

My Department has already moved to remove Audit Commission guidance and inspections which marked down councils who do not adopt fortnightly rubbish collections; and to abolish local area agreements imposed by Whitehall which created perverse incentives to downgrade waste collection services.

The Government will also work to monitor service levels to understand whether and how they are changing, keeping the quality, affordability and frequency of household waste collections under review.

We will also be examining the scope for financial incentives to support weekly collections in all their forms.

Fire Services

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to support fire authorities in reducing the time fire stations are off the run. [60412]

Robert Neill: The operational running and maintenance of fire stations are a matter for individual fire and rescue authorities under Integrated Risk Management Planning.

Fire Services: Emergency Calls

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* genuine and *(b)* malicious fire emergency calls have been received in London in each year since 2004. [59482]

Robert Neill: The numbers of genuine and malicious fire emergency calls received by London Fire Brigade in each year since 2004 are shown in the table.

Total emergency calls and malicious false alarms calls to London Fire Brigade 2004-05[1] to 2009-10

	2004-05[1]	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Malicious false alarms calls	n/a	8,607	9,702	9,750	6,022	5,557
Other emergency calls	n/a	259,271	256,797	244,554	223,286	214,364
Total emergency calls	266,737	267,878	266,499	254,304	229,308	219,921

[1] Data for malicious/other emergency calls not held centrally prior to 2005-06. *Source:* London Fire Brigade.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Ministers in his Department have been authorised to spend money via Government Procurement Cards since the introduction of the facility. [59216]

Robert Neill: Ministers are accountable for all expenditure by the Department.

No Ministers in the Department hold Government Procurement Cards. Ministerial private offices retain a small number of cards for expenditure in connection with official business.

My Department is committed to greater transparency over the use of the Government Procurement Card than under the last administration, and has strengthened checks and balances to ensure protection of taxpayers' money.

IBM

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts his Department holds with IBM; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58695]

Robert Neill: The Department holds no contracts with IBM.

Land: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what sites in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* North West Cambridgeshire constituency will be included in the Home and Communities Agency's development and land disposal strategy; and if he will make a statement. [59649]

Grant Shapps: The Homes and Communities Agency's land disposal strategy sets out the principles that will be applied when disposing of any assets held by the Agency. A full list of those assets is available on the Agency's website including any sites owned in Peterborough and the local authority areas that fall within the North West Cambridgeshire constituency.

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/land-and-property-assets

Leasehold: Peverel Group

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential effect on regulations governing leasehold of the entry into administration of the Peverel Group. [58834]

Andrew Stunell: I cannot comment on the situation regarding the Peverel Group and the holding companies that have been placed into administration. The entry of any company into administration does not affect the legislation governing the sector.

Residents' service charges should not be at risk in such situations as they are deemed by law to be held in trust and should not be used to pay creditors.

Companies in the Peverel Group which belong either to the Association of Residential Managing Agents or the Association of Retirement Housing Managers are required to adhere to the two Codes of Management Practice approved by the Secretary of State.

Planning Permission: Appeals

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning appeals have been submitted because of non-determination by each local planning authority in *(a)* Gloucestershire and *(b)* England in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [59095]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 10 June 2011]:* The following table shows the numbers of appeals submitted because of non-determination by all planning authorities as a total in England and individually by each planning authority in Gloucestershire in each of the last five financial years.

Appeals submitted because of non-determination

Period	*England*	*Cheltenham*	*Cotswold*	*Forest of Dean*	*Gloucester*	*Stroud*	*Tewkesbury*
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	874	2	0	1	0	2	2
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	846	0	2	1	1	4	8
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	726	0	3	2	[1]26	0	6
1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010	480	1	2	1	1	2	4
1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011	563	0	1	1	0	2	2

[1] This figure includes 24 separate appeals relating to the removal of conditions attached to an outline planning permission granted in the previous year.

Serco

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts his Department holds with SERCO; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58658]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government holds a contract with Serco for the IT system and for the operational and support services of the development, implementation and maintenance of the Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme. The contract was for two years and is due to finish at the end of June 2011. The costs to this date are approximately £588,376 (excluding VAT).

Travellers: Planning Permission

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure that Traveller and Gypsy groups do not receive preferential treatment in securing planning permission for the retrospective construction of residential dwellings in open countryside. [60465]

Robert Neill: The Government wants to see fair play in the planning system with everyone being treated equally and even-handedly. It is important that local authorities plan for the needs of their communities, including Travellers, but we will not tolerate abuse of the planning system by anyone. The Localism Bill sets out proposals to limit the opportunities for retrospective planning applications, in relation to any form of unauthorised development.

We are currently consulting on changes to planning policy on Travellers which proposes to increase protection of green belt and the open countryside.

We have also brought forward a number of measures in the Localism Bill that strengthen the powers that local authorities have to enforce against breaches of planning control.

Waste Disposal: Finance

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has any plans to provide additional funding as part of *(a)* the 2011-12 local government financial settlement and *(b)* future local government financial settlements to assist with costs of refuse collection and disposal. [59806]

Robert Neill: As set out in the Waste Review the Government will be working with local councils to increase the frequency and quality of rubbish collections and make it easier to recycle, and to tackle measures which encourage councils specifically to cut the scope of collections.

The Government understand that the public have a reasonable expectation that household waste collections services should be weekly, particularly for smelly waste.

Waste services are a matter for local authorities to develop fit for purpose local solutions. However the Government believe that better procurement and joint working can improve the efficiency of collections while improving the frontline service for the public in an affordable and practical manner.

My Department has already moved to remove Audit Commission guidance and inspections which marked down councils who do not adopt fortnightly rubbish collections; and to abolish local area agreements imposed by Whitehall which created perverse incentives to downgrade waste collection services.

The Government will also work to monitor service levels to understand whether and how they are changing, keeping the quality, affordability and frequency of household waste collections under review.

We will also be examining the scope for financial incentives to support weekly collections in all their forms.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) when he plans to announce the allocation of funds for broadband projects in Scotland; and if he will make a statement; [59842]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the implementation of his proposals for the provision of high speed broadband on the growth of rural enterprises; [59843]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Members of the Scottish Parliament and *(b)* Broadband Delivery UK on the process of devolving responsibility for high speed broadband provision; and if he will make a statement; [59844]

(4) what steps his Department plans to take in relation to local authorities who do not meet targets for the provision of high speed broadband by 2015; and if he will make a statement; [59845]

(5) what steps his Department plans to take to ensure universal access to high speed broadband. [59846]

Mr Vaizey: As I said on 27 May when announcing the locations of the next wave of projects to receive Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) funding, I intend to announce allocations for all three devolved administrations and English county councils in the near future. My officials are working with the Scottish Government and the other devolved administrations on their broadband plans. I have not had any recent discussions on broadband with Members of the Scottish Parliament.

The impact of broadband on business growth is well documented in publicly available studies. I have not made any new assessment of the impact of broadband on growth of rural enterprises.

We will be working with the Scottish Government and the other devolved administrations, as well as English county councils and other local authorities, to ensure that their local broadband plans are capable of meeting our ambition of having 90% of the population with access to superfast broadband in every local area with the rest having access to a service of at least 2 Mbps by 2015. The devolved administrations and English local authorities are showing a high degree of interest in broadband rollout.

The Government's broadband strategy was published in December 2010 in a document entitled "Britain's Superfast Broadband Future", which can be accessed on the broadband pages of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport website:

www.culture.gov.uk

This sets out the policy and regulatory interventions planned which are aimed at facilitating private sector rollout of broadband networks in addition to outlining the approach we are taking to using the £530 million of public funds available to support broadband rollout up to 2015.

Broadcasting Programmes: Urban Areas

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether Ofcom provides guidance to broadcasters on the depiction of specific cities. [59526]

Mr Vaizey: The matter raised is an operational one for the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, my officials spoke to Ofcom, who advised:

> Ofcom issues no specific guidance on how cities should be depicted. However, the Fairness provisions of Ofcom's Broadcasting Code contain practices that broadcasters should follow when dealing with individuals or organisations participating in or otherwise directly affected by programmes as broadcast. These provisions state that broadcasters must avoid unjust or unfair treatment of individuals or organisations, and this will include cities where appropriate.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what strategic framework his Department has developed for the delivery of its core functions during the comprehensive spending review period. [59733]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Department's Business Plan provides the strategic framework for the delivery of its core functions during the spending review period. This can be found at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7545.aspx

Progress against the Plan is set out in the Structural Reform Plan monthly updates and the forthcoming Quarterly Data Summary, to be published on the Department's website.

Gambling

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 349-50W, on gambling, what funding his Department provided for research, education and treatment of problem gambling in each year since 2005; and if he will estimate the level of funding for such activities from industry in each of those years. [58428]

John Penrose: For each of the years between 2006-07 and 2010-11 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) provided grant in aid to the Gambling Commission to be used for gambling research, primarily the British Gambling Prevalence Surveys for 2007 and 2010, but did not fund education and treatment. In 2005-06, when the Gambling Commission took on the responsibilities of its predecessor, the Gaming Board for Great Britain, a small proportion of the grant in aid received from DCMS was spent on gambling research but a detailed breakdown can be provided only at disproportionate cost. The following table sets out the Department's provision for gambling research and industry contributions to research, education and treatment.

		£ million
	Industry funding[1]	*Grant in aid*
2005-06	2.16	[2]—
2006-07	2.96	0.5
2007-08	3.44	0.5
2008-09	3.5	0.5
2009-10	5	0.5
2010-11	[3]5	0.48

[1] Funding to RIGT (Responsibility in Gambling Trust) and Great (The Great Foundation) for research, education and treatment.

[2] Not available.

[3] Provisional figure.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 349W, on gambling, if he will place in the Library a copy of the written representation from the Association of British Bookmakers. [58429]

John Penrose: It is not the Department's usual practice to publish correspondence other than when it is in response to public consultation.

Prisons: Television

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will review the exemption from the television licence fee for prisoners with in-cell televisions. [59435]

Mr Vaizey: There are no plans to review the Crown exemption from the television licensing requirements of the Communications Act 2003. The interpretation and application of the legislation on TV licensing is the responsibility of the BBC.

Public Libraries: Closures

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with local authorities on the use of surplus books arising from the closure of public libraries. [59690]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has a statutory duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 to ensure that public library authorities in England provide a "comprehensive and efficient" library service in accordance with their statutory duties under the 1964 Act. The manner in which the "comprehensive and efficient" library service is managed and delivered, including decisions relating to the use or disposal of surplus stock, is for local authorities to determine. I have had no discussions with local authorities on this issue.

Religious Buildings: East of England

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to support the architectural heritage of ecclesiastical buildings in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* the East of England; and if he will make a statement. [59500]

John Penrose: The Government supports the architectural heritage of ecclesiastical buildings in Peterborough and the East of England in a number of ways.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport operates the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme which makes a contribution towards the VAT incurred in making repairs to the listed places of worship of any faith or denomination.

In partnership with the Church Commissioners, the Department funds the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) which cares for the most significant Church of England churches no longer needed for regular worship. In the 2010-11 financial year, CCT spent £97,000 on repairing and maintaining its churches in the Diocese of Peterborough and £500,000 in total on churches in East Anglia.

The running and maintenance of relevant English Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund schemes are their responsibility. I have therefore asked their chief executives to consider the question raised by the hon. Member for Peterborough and to write to him direct. Copies of their replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Telecommunications

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how many hon. Members have contacted his Department in relation to video relay services in the last *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months; [59496]

(2) how many items of correspondence his Department received from hon. Members on video relay services in the last *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months. [59497]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has received approximately 180 items of correspondence on this subject from hon. Members over the last 12 months. Over 95% of these have been received in the last six months.

In addition, there have been seven parliamentary questions tabled by hon. Members regarding video relay services, all within the last six months.

Telecommunications: Hearing Impairment

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received from members of the deaf community on relay services in the last 12 months. [59256]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has received approximately 200 items of correspondence on this subject over the last 12 months. Of these, around 180 have been from hon. Members on behalf of constituent members of the deaf community, and 20 have been from members of the public and deaf community directly. I have also met a constituent personally to discuss the issue, and have had meetings with a number of voluntary organisations who are members of the eAccessibility Forum to discuss their concerns around access to relay services for the deaf community in the UK.

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Cabinet Office, *(b)* 10 Downing Street, *(c)* the Government Equalities Office, *(d)* the Department for Work and Pensions, *(e)* the Ministry of Justice and *(f)* HM Treasury on access to telecommunications for users of British Sign Language. [59498]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has held four EU Framework Implementation workshops over the last 12 months, with officials in *(a)* Cabinet Office, *(c)* the Government Equalities Office, *(d)* the Department for Work and Pensions, *(e)* the Ministry of Justice and *(f)* HM Treasury, to discuss the issue of access to telecommunications for users of British Sign Language (BSL) under the UK's implementation of the EU framework review under Article 23a of the universal service directive which states that disabled and older people should have equivalent access to services and products.

The eAccessibility Forum has held four meetings over the last 12 months where the issue of access to telecommunications services for users of British Sign Language (BSL) has been presented and discussed by members from industry and the third sector. These meetings also included the following Departments *(a)* Cabinet Office, *(c)* the Government Equalities Office, *(d)* the Department for Work and Pensions, and *(e)* the Ministry of Justice. The eAccessibility Forum continues to work with Ofcom to look at Article 23a and what equivalence of service and products would look like for disabled and older people in the UK as well as supporting deaf, deaf/blind and hard of hearing telecoms users by pursuing the duty to promote the availability of terminal equipment suitable for disabled end users. This includes access to telecommunications equipment for users of British Sign Language (BSL).

The eAccessibility Action plan is a key tool to develop further government policy in this area, and to provide government, business and other organisations with the right tools to enable everyone to contribute to the UK digital economy.

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has to extend access to telecommunications for users of British Sign Language to local communities following the publication of the Ofcom Relay Services Review. [59499]

Mr Vaizey: The Government strongly supported the introduction of Article 23a into the revised Universal Service Directive, and its clarification of powers for National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) to specify, where appropriate, requirements to be met by undertakings providing electronic networks and services in relation to equivalence in access and choice for disabled end-users. To implement these revisions the Government have effected changes to the Communications Act 2003 that enable Ofcom to specify, where appropriate, requirements to be met by undertakings providing publicly available electronic communication services.

Separately, and in line with their responsibilities to further the interests of citizens and consumers, Ofcom, the independent telecoms regulator, is currently undertaking a review of relay service provision in the UK. The objectives of this review are to assess whether current arrangements are adequate in delivering equivalence to voice telephony for hearing (including BSL users) and speech impaired end-users. This review will look at, among other things, the existing text relay service and additional relay services including video relay and captioned telephony. It will also include a cost benefit analysis of the different potential options. The Government believe this is an appropriate and sensible way forward. However, it would be inappropriate to speculate on the outcome of that review or attempt to influence its conclusions.

Telecommunications: Ofcom

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with Ofcom on the timetable for Ofcom's review of relay services. [59254]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has not met with Ofcom to discuss the timetable for their review of relay services.

However, officials have met with Ofcom both to discuss implementation of the revised EU Electronic Communications Framework, and in particular Article 23a of the Universal Services Directive which provides new powers to Ofcom to act on the outcome of their current review; and more generally to discuss the Ofcom review of relay services. Some of these discussions have been in the context of the e-Accessibility Forum.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what *(a)* reports, *(b)* consultations, *(c)* market research and *(d)* other publications Ofcom issued on relay services in each of the last 10 years. [59255]

Mr Vaizey: There are references to relay services in the following Ofcom publications, although there has not been an Ofcom review of, or consultation on, relay services during this time.

Consultations/statements

Universal Service Obligation consultation document (January 2005)

Universal Service Obligation statement and further consultation (June 2005)

Universal Service Obligation statement (March 2006)

Access and Inclusion consultation document (March 2009)

Research

Universal Service Obligation: Deaf and hearing impaired consumers and text phone services (2004)

Feasibility of Additional Telephone Relay Services (2006)

Captioned Telephony—extension of 2006 research report (January 2008)

Voice telephony services for deaf people (July 2009)

Ofcom relay services (market research in support of current review of relay services) (February 2011).

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what meetings Ministers and officials in his Department have had with Ofcom on relay services in the last 12 months. [59257]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has held four EU Framework Implementation stakeholder engagement events over the last twelve months. These were attended by officials from across Whitehall including officials from Cabinet Office, the Government Equalities Office, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Ministry of Justice. These events were held to discuss, among aspects of implementation, the issue of access to telecommunications for users of British Sign

Language (BSL) and implementation of the EU framework review including Article 23a of the universal service directive and its provisions which relate to access and choice for disabled and older people.

In addition, the eAccessibility Forum has held four meetings over the last 12 months where the issue of access to telecommunications services for users of British Sign Language (BSL) has been presented and discussed by members from industry and the third sector. These meetings also included representatives from the Cabinet Office, the Government Equalities Office, the Department for Work and Pensions, and the Ministry of Justice. The eAccessibility Forum continues to work with Ofcom to look at Article 23a and what equivalence of service and products would look like for disabled and older people in the UK as well as supporting deaf, deaf/blind and hard of hearing telecoms users by pursuing the duty to promote the availability of terminal equipment suitable for disabled end users. This includes access to telecommunications equipment for users of British Sign Language (BSL).

The eAccessibility action plan is a key tool to develop further government policy in this area, and to provide government, business and other organisations with the right tools to enable everyone to contribute to the UK digital economy.

DEFENCE

Arms Trade: Exports

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assistance his Department has provided for the export of weapons in each of the last two financial years. [59813]

Mr Gerald Howarth: Support to defence exports is a top priority. We are working closely with the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) and industry to increase the UK's share of the defence market.

The Ministry of Defence business plan set out our priorities to promote defence exports consistent with export control criteria; as part of a defence diplomacy programme to strengthen British influence and to help sustain high technology jobs in Britain's defence industry.

Every Minister travelling overseas is charged with the task of promoting Britain, including its defence exports. The Department has supported UKTI DSO export campaigns through demonstrations and engagement with potential overseas customer governments, including on Typhoon. Our Departmental Annual Report, which will be published in mid July, will include a section on defence exports.

EDUCATION

Pupil Exclusions

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils were excluded permanently from schools in *(a)* East Sussex, *(b)* Brighton and Hove, *(c)* Brighton, Kemptown constituency and *(d)* West Sussex in each of the last five years. [59122]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is shown in the tables.

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3]. Number of permanent exclusions[4] 2004/05 to 2008/09. East Sussex, Brighton and Hove and West Sussex local authorities and Brighton Kemptown parliamentary constituency

	Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools					
	2004/05		2005/06		2006/07	
	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[5]	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[5]	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[5]
East Sussex local authority	110	0.16	100	0.15	60	0.09
Brighton and Hove local authority	40	0.13	50	0.15	20	0.06
West Sussex local authority	160	0.15	170	0.16	130	0.13
Brighton, Kemptown parliamentary constituency	20	0.28	20	0.19	10	0.09

	Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools			
	2007/08		2008/09	
	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[5]	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[5]
East Sussex local authority	60	0.09	60	0.10
Brighton and Hove local authority	10	0.03	[6]—	[6]—
West Sussex local authority	150	0.15	90	0.08
Brighton, Kemptown parliamentary constituency	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Figures for the local authority are as confirmed by local authorities as part of a data checking exercise, figures for the constituency are as provided by schools.
[5] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils (excluding dually registered pupils).
[6] Less than 5, or a percentage based on less than 5.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded lo the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Schools: First Aid

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the adequacy of teaching of emergency life support in schools; and if he will make a statement. [59128]

Mr Gibb: The July 2010 Ofsted report on personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education found that teaching was good or outstanding in over three quarters of the schools visited. It did not identify the teaching of emergency life support as an area of weakness.

The national PSHE framework currently includes teaching primary school pupils about basic emergency procedures and where to get help. The Ofsted report uses the Heartstart course in one primary school as a case study of effective practice. The course has been developed from the British Heart Foundation's Heartstart Programme and teaches young people the skills needed in a life threatening emergency which include making a 999 call, placing someone in the recovery position, or performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

At secondary level, pupils are currently taught to develop the skills to cope with emergency situations that require basic first aid procedures, including, at ages 15-16, resuscitation techniques. Ofsted inspectors commented on one school that had responded to views expressed in a school survey and introduced a first aid course for all pupils.

This assessment demonstrates that schools are well placed to take decisions about how best to teach pupils about important life skills, including the teaching of emergency life support.

Schools: Hearing Impairment

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department provides for schools for the hearing impaired towards the costs of hiring interpreters. [58823]

Sarah Teather: The Department for Education does not provide specific funding for hiring interpreters, nor does it collect information about expenditure on particular services provided in schools. In 2010-11, local authority planned net expenditure on 979 maintained special schools, including 310 schools approved for the education of pupils with hearing impairments, was just under £1.642 billion.

Sixth Form Colleges

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people entered formal post-16 education in sixth forms in *(a)* 2000 and *(b)* 2009. [58911]

Mr Gibb: Data on participation in education post-16 are published in a Department for Education (DFE) Statistical First Release (SFR) entitled "Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 Year Olds in England".

The following table shows the numbers and proportions of the cohort of young people of academic age 16 (the vast majority of whom will be in their first year of post-compulsory education) who were participating in education, by institution type, in 2000 and 2009.

Participation in education at academic age 16 by institution type, end 2000 and end 2009

	2000		2009	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Maintained schools[1]	174,726	28.8	209,979	33.0
Academies and City Technology Colleges	1,981	0.3	12,496	2.0
Independent schools[2]	35,585	5.9	38,689	6.1
Sixth form colleges	58,005	9.6	75,498	11.9
General FE, tertiary and specialist colleges	188,052	31.0	228,851	35.9
Higher education institutions	2,413	0.4	2,441	0.4
Total	460,762	75.9	567,954	89.2
Population	606,706		636,956	

[1] Includes all pupils in maintained schools and maintained special schools and pupil referral units.
[2] Includes all pupils in independent schools, non-maintained special schools.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on *(a)* supporting and *(b)* funding innovative action on climate change by local authorities. [60257]

Gregory Barker: Local authorities are uniquely placed to provide leadership and vision on climate change action in their local communities. Many are enthusiastic about playing their part in meeting national carbon mitigation targets and have already set in place stretching ambitions and policies for emissions in their area—and are making a difference.

In order to help build capacity and support innovation DECC funded a £2.5 million Local Carbon Frameworks pilot programme in 2010-11 and we plan to publish the findings from that later this year. The recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between DECC and the Local Government Group also supports robust, self regulated action on carbon reduction. And we are working with local government to ensure that all local authorities support the roll out of the Green Deal across their areas.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the abolition of National Indicator 186 on the number of local authorities taking action on climate change. [60258]

Gregory Barker: No assessment has been carried out. The data which were previously known as National Indicator 186 continue to be collected as part of our standard collection of national statistics. They are published at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/indicators/ni186/ni186.aspx

Climate Change: Exports

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has provided information to UK Trade and Investment on the effects on climate change of the businesses supported by UK Trade and Investment. [58194]

Gregory Barker: DECC has not provided information directly to UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) on the effects on climate change of the businesses supported by UKTI. However DECC does publish analysis of the contribution of individual sectors to climate change, which is available to UKTI in considering the impact of companies within these sectors.

Energy: Housing

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to ensure that small and medium-sized enterprises have access to the Green Deal market. [59996]

Gregory Barker: SMEs will play a significant part in the delivery of the Green Deal. If the Green Deal is to serve homeowners and businesses well, it is essential that there is a competitive market for all aspects of Green Deal delivery—as Green Deal providers, assessors, installers or product suppliers.

As such, we are designing the Green Deal framework to place the minimum administrative burdens on organisations as possible, while ensuring the necessary consumer protections are in place. For example, where possible we will build on existing accreditation schemes and improve established assessment methodologies that are already understood by industry.

This is an opportunity for SMEs as much as for large installers and each will need to find their unique selling point. Provided SMEs meet the required standards, they will be able to compete in this growing market.

We also wish to ensure Green Deal providers who are able to deliver cost-effectively have access to funding through the new Energy Company Obligation (ECO). This will enable all providers who reach the accreditation standards to compete fairly with energy companies' energy services arms. To this end, we are designing the ECO to operate as simply as possible so as not to inadvertently block the emergence of a diverse and dynamic market.

Energy: Manufacturing Industries

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of energy policy on UK manufacturers; [58620]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of energy policy on small and medium-sized enterprises. [58621]

Charles Hendry: DECC's assessment of the impact of energy and climate change policies on gas and electricity prices and bills was published alongside the Annual Energy Statement (AES) in July 2010. The headline messages were that energy and climate change policies were:

Adding 6% to the average gas price and 20% to the average electricity price paid by medium-sized non-domestic users[1] in 2010, rising to 24% and 43%, respectively, in 2020.

Adding 5% to the average gas bill and 19% to the average electricity bill and 14% to the average energy (gas plus electricity) bill paid by medium-sized non-domestic users in 2010, rising to 20%, 29% and 26%, respectively, in 2020.

The above impacts are consistent with a wholesale gas price of around 70p/therm in 2020.[2] Under a higher gas price scenario, the impact of the same policies on bills is estimated to be lower. For example, at a gas price of around 120p/therm in 2020, the impact of these policies is estimated to be 13% (instead of 26%) on the average energy bill faced by these users, compared to a bill in 2020 in the absence of these policies.

The largest component of energy bills is wholesale energy costs—based primarily on the price of natural gas. Reducing our dependence on fossil fuels will help reduce the exposure that energy consumers have to volatile movements in international fossil fuel prices, as well as making our energy supplies more secure.

The above estimates do not include the subsequent announcements that the Renewable Heat Incentive and the Carbon Capture and Storage demonstrations would be funded through general taxation rather than a levy on gas and electricity prices, the introduction of a Carbon Price Floor, or the potential impacts of the Government's Electricity Market Reform proposals.

An updated assessment, including these announced policy changes, will be published alongside the next AES and will include an assessment of the impacts of energy and climate change policies on gas and electricity prices and bills paid by illustrative large energy intensive industrial users.

In terms of other effects, energy and climate change policies are also helping UK businesses to become more energy efficient, to invest in low carbon innovation and to compete in the growing international market for low carbon products.

[1] Non-domestic energy consumers include industry, transport, public administration, commercial and agriculture. A medium-sized gas user is defined by an annual consumption of between 2,228MWh and 27,777MWh of gas. A medium-sized electricity user is defined by an annual consumption of between 2,000 and 19,999MWh of electricity (both based on Eurostat definitions). The midpoints of these ranges were used for our analysis.

[2] Real 2009 prices.

Energy: Prices

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the effects on levels of fuel poverty of recent changes in domestic energy prices. [60375]

Gregory Barker: No formal assessments of the effects of recent changes in domestic energy prices on fuel poverty levels have yet been undertaken.

The recent changes in domestic energy prices on fuel poverty will lead to upward pressure on fuel poverty in 2011. Nevertheless, the true effect will be known only when we have full information on price changes from all suppliers and the English Housing Survey (EHS). The EHS provides vital information for calculating the level of fuel poverty, including the mix of domestic fuels used by households, the income of those living in the households and the energy efficiency of the housing stock. Each of the devolved Administrations manage equivalent surveys with the same range of information as fuel poverty is a devolved statistic.

However, an assessment of the likely impact of all changes for England will be made on 14 July 2011 when DECC will publish 2011 projections of fuel poverty for England.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to assess the effects on *(a)* payment method preference, *(b)* levels of debt and *(c)* levels of disconnections of domestic energy consumers of (i) recent and (ii) future energy prices; and what funding his Department has provided for energy efficiency advice and information for consumers in the latest period for which figures are available. [60406]

Charles Hendry: In order to meet its principal duty to protect the interests of consumers, Ofgem collects and monitors data on debt and disconnection and areas which affect vulnerable consumers, including payment method preference such as prepayment meters. It uses this information to help assess supplier performance and prioritise its future work.

In 2011-12, DECC is core grant funding the Energy Saving Trust with a total of £16.5 million. A large proportion of this is to provide energy efficiency advice and information for consumers.

Funding for the Warm Front Scheme in 2011-12 is £108 million. Under the Scheme, eligible applicants are provided with heating and insulation measures and energy efficiency advice.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with Ofgem on its response to recent changes in the cost of energy for domestic use; and if he will make a statement. [60410]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials meet with Ofgem on a regular basis to discuss market issues.

Consumers deserve the best possible deal, which means rough and tough competition in the marketplace. We are cutting red tape for smaller suppliers to boost competition in retail markets, while Ofgem is tackling other barriers to effective competition (such as tariff complexity and low wholesale market liquidity) in its Retail Market Review. While greater competition should put pressure on prices consumers should also regularly evaluate the best deal on the market.

Government are also taking a range of actions to increase people's control over their energy bills through energy efficiency, including the Green Deal, and better information.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects on levels of fuel poverty of recent changes in the level of utility prices; and if he will make a statement. [60539]

Gregory Barker: No formal assessments of the effects of recent changes in domestic energy prices on fuel poverty levels have yet been undertaken.

The recent changes in domestic energy prices on fuel poverty will lead to upward pressure on fuel poverty in 2011. Nevertheless, the true effect will only be known when we have full information on price changes from all suppliers and the English Housing Survey (EHS) data for 2011. The EHS provides vital information for calculating the level of fuel poverty, including the mix of domestic fuels used by households, the income of those living in the households and the energy efficiency of the housing stock.

However, an assessment of the likely impact of all changes will be made on 14 July 2011 when DECC will publish 2011 projections of fuel poverty for England.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with utility companies on changes in utility prices; and if he will make a statement. [60540]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials meet with energy suppliers on a regular basis to discuss market issues.

Consumers deserve the best possible deal, which means rough and tough competition in the marketplace. We are cutting red tape for smaller suppliers to boost competition in retail markets, while Ofgem is tackling other barriers to effective competition (such as tariff complexity and low wholesale market liquidity) in its Retail Market Review. While greater competition should put pressure on prices consumers should also regularly evaluate the best deal on the market.

EU Structural Funds

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make representations to the European Commission on the allocation of funding from EU Structural Funds. [60163]

Gregory Barker: The Government's representations to the European Commission on funding from the EU structural funds, and indeed on all funding from the EU Budget, in both the annual budget and multi-annual financial framework process is led by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Government believe that funding for climate change should make-up a larger share of a smaller budget in the next multi-annual financial framework, and that climate change objectives should be funded through existing headings, including the EU structural funds. The Government will continue to make this case to the European Commission.

Fuel Poverty

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many households in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland were living in fuel poverty in each of the last five years; [60398]

(2) how many low-income households with children are classified as living in fuel poverty in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland; [60399]

(3) how many pensioner households are classified as living in fuel poverty in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland; [60400]

(4) how many households with individuals registered as disabled are classified as living in fuel poverty in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland; [60401]

(5) what information his Department holds on the number of Scottish households in fuel poverty in *(a)* the private rented sector, *(b)* local authority housing, *(c)* social housing and *(d)* owner-occupied housing in each of the last five years. [60402]

Gregory Barker: Fuel poverty is a devolved measurement and each country of the UK is responsible for measuring the number of fuel poor households in their own country.

The following table shows the number of fuel poor households in each year since 2005 for which they have been measured:

					Thousand
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
England	1,529	2,432	2,823	3,335	*
Scotland	419	543	586	618	770
Wales	n/a	n/a	n/a	332	n/a
Northern Ireland	n/a	226	n/a	n/a	302

2009 fuel poverty figures for England will be published on 14 July 2011. Figures for Wales and Northern Ireland are not produced every year.

Detailed numbers of fuel poor households shown in answer to other questions are derived from the most recent data available in each country.

In 2008, in England, there were around 394,000 fuel poor households with income in the lowest three decile groups that contained a child under the age of 16. Using a similar definition in Scotland, in 2009, there were around 46,000 low income households containing children that were fuel poor and around 29,000 corresponding households in Wales. Figures are not available for Northern Ireland.

In England in 2008, around 1.72 million fuel poor households contained somebody aged 60 or over. In Scotland, in 2009, around 497,000 fuel poor households contained somebody aged 60 or over. In Wales in 2008, around 183,000 fuel poor households contained somebody aged 60 or over. Figures are not available for Northern Ireland.

In England in 2008, around 1.29 million fuel poor households contained somebody who was long-term ill or disabled. The corresponding figure for Scotland in 2009 was around 309,000 and in Wales, in 2008, around 160,000 households. Figures are not available for Northern Ireland.

The Scottish Government hold information on the number of fuel poor households in Scotland by tenure. The Department has sourced the data from them and this is displayed as follows:

					Thousand
Households	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Owner occupied	298	379	362	371	485
Local authority/ other public	45	81	116	97	138
HA/co-op	46	42	54	88	80
Private rented sector	31	41	53	62	63

Hydroelectric Power

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether his Department has considered any proposals to develop hydropower facilities on the River Thames; [60111]

(2) whether the evaluation of the Romney Weir hydroelectric power project has been completed. [60112]

Charles Hendry: It is for the Environment Agency and the relevant local authorities rather than DECC to consider proposals to develop small hydropower schemes.

I understand that the Romney Weir hydropower scheme is due to be completed in October this year. The evaluation of the scheme required by the Environment Agency will include some pre-completion survey work. Once the scheme is operational, there will be monitoring of the geomorphology. The new fish pass will be monitored to assess fish passage across the weir as part of the overall assessment of the scheme.

Insulation: Housing

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps his Department has taken to assist low income homeowners in properties without cavity wall insulation to make their houses more energy efficient. [59977]

Gregory Barker: In preparation for the Green Deal, the Government have restructured and extended the Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) to December 2012, providing a greater focus on targeting energy efficiency measures at the poorest and most vulnerable households. This will result in an estimated 1 million households in the 'priority' and 'super priority' groups receiving cavity wall insulation.

In addition, the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) drives the delivery of whole house retrofits to improve the energy efficiency of homes in low income areas and the Warm Front scheme, which will continue for a further two years, provides assistance to fuel poor households through the installation of heating and insulation measures.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make representations to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the compatibility of the decision on confidentiality in respect of IPCC processes and procedures taken at the 33rd session of the IPCC with article 2 of the Principles Governing IPCC Work. [59658]

Gregory Barker: The Government consider that the IPCC decision is consistent with the Principles Governing IPCC Work. As part of the ongoing work of the Task Group on Processes and Procedures, the IPCC agreed to develop transparency and openness further by taking forward discussions of ways to widen expert comments in the development of IPCC reports. My officials will participate fully in these discussions.

Natural Gas: Exploration

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 347W, on natural gas: exploration, if he will publish the results of the geomechanical study on the recent seismic tremors near Blackpool upon completion; and if he will make a statement. [60210]

Charles Hendry: This geomechanical study, which commenced recently, is expected to take 30-60 days. Upon completion I anticipate that the results will be published and, as I have already indicated, the implications of this information will be reviewed before any decision on the resumption of hydraulic fracture operations is made.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 549W, on natural gas exploration, whether he has any plans to meet *(a)* the Health and Safety Executive and *(b)* environment agencies to discuss unconventional gas. [60215]

Charles Hendry: I have no current plans to meet these organisations, but my officials have a regular dialogue with the Health and Safety Executive and the environment agencies regarding natural gas exploration.

Renewables Obligation

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish *(a)* the details of the Renewables Obligation banding review and *(b)* the date of publication of the report of the review. [60213]

Gregory Barker: The first phase of the Renewables Obligation banding review, the independent report carried out by Arup on generation costs and deployment potential across the renewables electricity sector, was published on 10 June 2011. A copy of Arup's report is available on DECC's website at the following location:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/Renewable_Ener/renew_obs/renew_obs.aspx

We will publish the consultation, which will include the proposed ROC levels for the various technologies, later this summer. The Government response to the RO banding review consultation will be issued before the end of the year. This will contain the finalised banding levels to be introduced from April 2013 (April 2014 for offshore wind).

Windpower

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost-effectiveness of onshore wind power. [59442]

Charles Hendry: Using the findings from Arup (2011)[1], DECC have calculated the cost per MWh of electricity generated by small (<5 MW) and large scale (>5 MW) onshore wind power.

These costs are expected to reduce over time. Onshore wind is one of the most cost-effective sources of renewable electricity.

The table compares the cost per MWh of onshore wind to the cost per MWh of non-renewable electricity generation from Mott Macdonald (2010)[2]. Costs are expected to reduce over time for nuclear and CCS technologies as they are deployed more widely and the technologies mature. The costs of unabated fossil plant are estimated to increase over time driven by higher future carbon prices.

	Levelised costs £/MWh
Onshore wind >5 MW	90.2
Onshore wind <5 MW	104.9
Gas CCGT	80.3
Gas CCGT with CCS (FOAK)	112.5
ASC Coal	104.5
ASC Coal with CCS (FOAK)	142.1
Coal IGCC (FOAK)	134.6
Coal IGCC with CCS (FOAK)	147.6
Nuclear PWR (FOAK)	99.0

Notes:

1. The onshore wind levelised costs are based on Arup (2011) central capital and operating expenditure estimates for a small and large onshore wind reference plant. They assume a 2011 project start and are discounted at 10%. The assumed load factor is 29% for large onshore wind and 25% for small onshore wind. The assumed installation lifetime is 24 years.
2. The levelised costs of non-renewable technologies are based on Mott Macdonald (2010) central capital and operating expenditure estimates. They assume a 2009 project start and are discounted at 10%.

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[1] Arup (2011), Review of the generation costs and deployment potential of renewable electricity technologies in the UK, can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn11_47/pn11_47.aspx

[2] Mott Macdonald (2010), UK Electricity Generation Costs Update, can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Statistics/Projections/71-uk-electricity-generation-costs-update-.pdf

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department were first informed of the discovery by researchers from the university of Cambridge of a new strain of MRSA in milk from a British herd; and what steps she plans to take to address the issue. [59460]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 15 June 2011]:* The former Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the right hon. Member for Leeds Central (Hilary Benn) and Ministers were first informed of the novel MRSA strain that had been identified by the university of Cambridge on 24 September 2009. On 1 June 2011, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), was notified of the impending publication of the university of Cambridge's paper on this novel MRSA strain.

As a result of the university of Cambridge notifying the Department of the identification of this novel strain in 2009, DEFRA, including its Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), alerted colleagues from the Department of Health, the Health Protection Agency and the Food Standards Agency about the initial findings. As a result of the consequent discussions, DEFRA commissioned the university to undertake some further work to enhance understanding of the origin and the significance of this new finding. Included within this additional work was the investigation of some cattle *staphylococcus aureus* isolates that the VLA had retained as an archive after a research project into mastitis (inflammation of the udder) in cattle. None of these isolates were identified as MRSA by the VLA using normal testing protocols, although a few showed some resistance to the antibiotics commonly used to identify MRSA. These isolates identified by VLA as having a degree of resistance underwent further examination during this additional research and some were shown to be similar to the strain identified by Cambridge.

Now that this research has been completed, DEFRA will continue to collaborate with public health bodies that are all represented at the DEFRA Antimicrobial Resistance Coordination (DARC) group. A sub-group specifically on MRSA will also continue to monitor all new developments relating to all types of MRSA and will advise on potential policy options accordingly. Further research projects will be commissioned on antimicrobial resistance. Their scope will continue to be prioritised, and this will be informed by the DARC group, which assesses risk to help target funding to where it is most needed.

The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency will continue to test clinical samples from cows with mastitis (and other diagnostic submissions from cows and other farmed species) and so monitor such material for the presence of *staphylococcus aureus* and whether such isolates demonstrate resistance to antibiotics. The VMD is responsible for authorising all veterinary antimicrobial products and monitors the overall volume of sales and any suspected adverse reactions (including being notified about suspected failures in effectiveness, which may be an indication of the development of antimicrobial resistance).

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Corruption

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the level of corruption in the Afghan Government; and what mechanism he uses to measure such levels. [59716]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have been asked to reply.

Corruption threatens economic growth in developing countries; in Afghanistan, it hampers socio-economic development, undermines the legitimacy of the Government and prevents the delivery of services to the Afghan people. The coalition Government will not tolerate corruption and in all their development programmes do their utmost to eliminate it.

At the Kabul Conference in July 2010 the Afghan Government made several key commitments to tackle corruption. The international community, led by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), monitors progress against these commitments. Progress to date has been mixed, but there have been some significant achievements, such as the establishment of a Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) comprised of Afghans and international experts, which will assess performance against agreed anti-corruption benchmarks.

The UK Government monitor Afghan perceptions of corruption using a range of survey data gathered by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), The Asia Foundation and Integrity Watch Afghanistan.

Caribbean Court of Justice

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress his Department has made in supporting a Caribbean Court of Justice to address capital appeals from Commonwealth nations in the Caribbean. [59948]

Mr Lidington: To date three Commonwealth Caribbean countries have adopted the Caribbean Court of Justice as the final court of appeal: Barbados, Belize and Guyana. It is for the Government of the country concerned to decide whether they wish to retain the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council as their highest court of appeal.

Foreign Relations

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 207W, on foreign relations, if he will place in the Library a copy of the research on global perceptions of the UK which his Department has received in the last 12 months. [60075]

Mr Hague: We are unfortunately unable to place access details to the Gallup WorldView online tool or place the GfK research in the Library as this would contravene the terms and conditions of the subscription agreements we have with our suppliers, which protects their commercial and intellectual property rights.

IBM

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many contracts his Department holds with IBM; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58688]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has a central record of one contract with IBM, worth approximately £1,000.00 per year, for software support.

UK Membership of EU: Referendums

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the policy of the Government is on a referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union. [58903]

Mr Lidington: This Government believe that membership of the European Union is in the national interest, bringing with it significant benefits to the UK. On that basis this Government have no plans to hold an in/out referendum.

HEALTH

Bladder Cancer

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS are taking to raise awareness of the (i) risk factors, (ii) diagnosis and (iii) treatment of bladder cancer. [60443]

Paul Burstow: Smoking is the biggest cause of preventable bladder cancer. Healthy lives, healthy people: a tobacco control plan for England, published on 9 March 2011, sets out a range of national actions to support local evidence-based activity to reduce smoking rates in England. The link between tobacco use and cancer is clearly made in the plan, a copy of which has already been placed in the Library.

To improve the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients with all cancers, including bladder cancer, on 12 January 2011 we published "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer". The strategy sets out an ambition to save an additional 5,000 lives every year by 2014-15 through earlier diagnosis of cancer and improved access to screening and radiotherapy. To support earlier diagnosis of cancer the Government have committed over £450 million over the next four years, which includes provision for the funding of awareness activity.

The focus of future campaign work will be determined by evaluation of current cancer awareness activity.

This includes £9 million to support 59 local projects focusing on breast, bowel and lung cancer and £1.75 million that has trialled a national bowel cancer campaign in two regions. However, we know that not all the 5,000 lives can be saved by tackling these common cancers alone, and we are considering how we might extend the previous campaigns to cover other cancers, including bladder cancer.

In 2002 the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published Improving Outcomes in Urological Cancers which sets out best practice for the national health service for the diagnosis, care and treatment of patients with urological cancers, including bladder cancer. Our cancer strategy confirms that NICE Improving Outcomes Guidance will continue to be a feature of all commissioned cancer services.

Cancer: Drugs

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has assessed the effects on the Cancer Drugs Fund of potential changes to guidance issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for cancer drugs which are funded by the NHS. [59820]

Paul Burstow: We have made no such assessment.

The Department published "Guidance to support operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund in 2011-12" on 23 March 2011. This makes clear that strategic health authorities will need to manage their share of the Cancer Drugs Fund in a way that enables them to respond to the changing profile of available treatments and potential fluctuations in the numbers of patients presenting for specific treatments.

A copy of the guidance has already been placed in the Library.

Cancer: Health Services

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure co-ordination of cancer services in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [59935]

Paul Burstow: Primary care trusts will continue to take responsibility for the co-ordination of cancer services until they are abolished, and their functions in the relevant area transferred to new clinical commissioning groups, local authorities and the National Health Service Commissioning Board (CB). As set out in the Government's response to the NHS Future Forum report, the intention is to create a new duty for clinical commissioning groups to promote integrated services for patients and to strengthen the duty on the NHS CB. The NHS CB will promote innovative ways of demonstrating how care can be made more integrated for patients.

To support the co-ordination of cancer services, we have said that cancer networks will now continue to receive funding in 2012-13 and that, subject to legislation, the NHS Commissioning Board will support strengthened cancer networks in the future. The National Cancer Director, Professor Sir Mike Richards, has been asked to begin work to strengthen the cancer networks and to engage them to understand how best to improve outcomes for patients.

Those areas of cancer commissioning that are currently covered by national or regional specialised commissioning, such as children's cancer services, will continue to be subject to similar arrangements, through the NHS CB.

Care Homes

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidelines his Department has issued on the size of care homes; [60554]

(2) what guidelines his Department has issued on the location of care homes. [60555]

Paul Burstow: The Department has not issued guidance on the size and location of care homes. It is for local authorities, working with providers, to ensure that sufficient numbers of suitable care home places are available to meet the needs of their populations.

Care providers must register with the regulator, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and comply with the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/781), which include requirements around the suitability of premises. A copy of the Regulations has already been placed in the Library.

Regulation 15 includes a requirement on safety and suitability of premises, which requires the registered person to ensure that service users and others are protected against the risks of unsafe or unsuitable premises.

Regulation 22 requires the registered person to ensure that at all times, sufficient numbers of suitably qualified, skilled and experienced staff are employed in order to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of service users. In addition, the CQC has the power to impose conditions on registration which might include restricting the number of service users a service may care for to ensure that services are safe and of an acceptable quality.

If providers fail to comply with the regulations, the CQC may take enforcement action.

Folic Acid

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to respond to the recent recommendation of the Standing Advisory Committee on Nutrition advocating the fortification of some foodstuffs with folic acid; and if he will make a statement. [59650]

Anne Milton: We will respond to the recent recommendations from the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition's report on folic acid fortification of some foodstuffs in due course.

Health Services

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to initiate a campaign to inform the general public about alternatives to using *(a)* accident and emergency and *(b)* GP health services. [59923]

Mr Simon Burns: There are currently no plans for a national campaign to promote alternatives to accident and emergency and general practitioner services. It is the responsibility of local national health service organisations to promote the range of services they provide.

National Association of Primary Care: Finance

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department provided to the National Association of Primary Care in the latest period for which figures are available; for what projects such funding was provided; and what the criteria for assessing *(a)* progress and *(b)* the outcome of each such project are. [60416]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Association of Primary Care (NAPC) has received funding from the Department for a range of projects and sponsorships, including those aimed at improving engagement with frontline clinicians. For example, the Department has funded the NAPC (and other primary care organisations) to support it in its work on the transition to the new clinical commissioning arrangements.

Key criteria for success have included proactive clinical leadership and engagement with frontline general practitioners (GPs), and the provision of advice and support to GPs as they begin to form clinical commissioning groups.

Details of funding awarded to the NAPC since April 2010 are as follows:

Description	*Date of purchase order approval*	*Costs (£)*
Call off contract with NAPC to support implementation of GP commissioning	23 November 2010	80,000
Sponsorship of award for "Improving services for patients" at the NAPC vision awards	6 October 2010	5,000
Funding for production of four monthly issues of Practical Commissioning from September to December 2010 (NAPC co-ordinated transfer of this funding to Practical Commissioning)	2 July 2010	28,000
Total		113,000

National Clinical Commissioning Network

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* remuneration and *(b)* other payments his Department has provided to his Department's National Clinical Commissioning Network Lead since May 2010; and whether he is an employee of the Department. [60418]

Mr Simon Burns: Dr James Kingsland was contracted to the Department to undertake the role of National Clinical Commissioning Network lead. Since May 2010; the Department has provided £37,318.40 in remuneration to Dr Kingsland for work he has undertaken in this role.

National Clinical Commissioning Network: National Association of Primary Care

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of potential conflicts of interest between the role of his Department's National Clinical Commissioning Network Lead and his role as President of the National Association of Primary Care; and what steps he has taken to manage any such conflict of interest. [60417]

Mr Simon Burns: In undertaking his role as lead for the National Clinical Commissioning Network, Dr James Kingsland has acted in his capacity as an individual general practitioner (GP), providing clinical leadership for the Network, in order to avoid potential conflicts of interest with his role within the National Association of Primary Care.

Social Services

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role local partnership boards have in commissioning care services. [59992]

Paul Burstow: Learning Disability Partnership Boards provide local leadership on service delivery and development. Their influence and ability to hold services to account should ensure that local needs will take priority when it comes to commissioning care services.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration: Crime

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of suspected immigration offences the UK Border Agency and its predecessor received in each of the last five years; and how many such reports were acted upon. [60102]

Damian Green: Reports of suspected immigration and/or customs offences received by the UK Border Agency, and their outcomes, are not recorded centrally. Information is recorded and assessed at the local level, and acted upon according to regional priorities.

Therefore, the information requested over a five-year period could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual local records at disproportionate cost.

The agency acknowledges the need to improve the end-to-end process of allegations handling in our response to the Independent Chief Inspector's (ICI) report on how the UK Border Agency receives and uses intelligence. A copy of the UK Border Agency response to the ICI report has been placed in the Library.

Members: Correspondence

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 17 February 2011 from the right hon. Member for Leeds Central regarding Lynn Watson, ref: M3415/11. [60016]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 16 June 2011]:* I wrote to the right hon. Member for Leeds Central on 16 June 2011.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the resettlement of ex-offenders. [59803]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

The Government's policy is to deliver more effective resettlement outcomes, through:

Probation, police and other local services taking an integrated approach to managing offenders;

rehabilitating offenders from drug dependency to drug-free lives, and to support them to make a full contribution to society;

getting offenders into jobs and with somewhere to live so that they can pay their own way; and

tackling mental health problems.

Police: Dorset

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were *(a)* in Dorset Police and *(b)* assigned to Bournemouth in each of the last 10 financial years. [60125]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 16 June 2011]:* Available data for Dorset, Bournemouth and Bournemouth and Poole police force areas are provided on Tables A and B respectively.

Table A: Police officer strength in Dorset as at 31 March, 2001 to 2010 and 30 September 2011

Dorset	*Number*
2001[1]	1,354
2002[1]	1,381
2003[2]	1,416
2004[2]	1,433
2005[2]	1,450
2006[2]	1,485
2007[2]	1,492
2008[2]	1,482
2009[2]	1,463
2010[2]	1,447
September 2011	1,439

[1] These are full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. They include all officers less staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with previously published figures)

[2] Full-time equivalent figures on a comparable strength basis (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003. and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

Table B: Police officer strength[1, 2] in Bournemouth and Bournemouth and Poole as at 31 March 2001 to 2010

	Full-time equivalent[1]	
	Bournemouth	*Bournemouth and Poole*
2001	n/a	•
2002	n/a	•
2003	318	•
2004	322	•
2005	317	•
2006	319	•
2007	315	•
2008	317	•
2009	•	506
2010	•	481

n/a = Not available. Basic command unit data were not collected centrally by the Home Office prior to 2003.

• = Not applicable

[1] Police personnel statistics are not collected by parliamentary constituency. Data have been provided for Bournemouth basic command unit for 2003 to 2008. In 2009, the basic command unit breakdown within Dorset changed. The figure for 2009 and 2010 is for 'Bournemouth and Poole'.

[2] These are full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Figures include officers on career break or maternity/paternity leave.

Police: Pay

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department gave to the Chief Police Officers' Staff Association in the latest period for which figures are available. [60220]

Nick Herbert: No funding has been provided to the Chief Police Officers' Staff Association in the last five financial years.

Police: Termination of Employment

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 345W, on police: termination of employment, what regulations required police forces to issue leavers with a certificate showing *(a)* final rank and *(b)* the period of service in that force between 1980 and 1995. [60103]

Nick Herbert: The relevant regulations were regulation 21 of the Police Regulations 1979 (with effect from 1 January 1980 until 14 June 1987) and regulation 21 of the Police Regulations 1987 (with effect from 15 June 1987 until 7 March 1995).

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Adaptation Fund

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funds his Department plans to provide to the UN Climate Adaptation Fund in each of the next four financial years. [59817]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government welcomed the establishment of the Adaptation Fund which is designed to support developing countries to make the investments needed to protect poor people from the impacts of climate change. We want the fund to be a success and the UK is an active member of its board. No decision has yet been taken on a possible UK contribution in the next four years. In considering whether to do so we will rigorously assess the ability of the fund to deliver results, impact and value for money for the poor people it is set up to serve.

Caribbean: Climate Change

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist Caribbean countries to adapt to climate-related challenges and develop greener economies. [59767]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government are helping Caribbean countries to adapt to climate challenges in a number of ways. Support from the Department for International Development's (DFID's) regional programme is helping build evidence on the potential effects of climate change for Caribbean countries. For example, we have funded detailed studies of climate change on tourism investments. We plan to help 228,000 people in vulnerable communities build their resilience by making their homes safer and stronger and will support introduction of hazard insurance products for small scale farmers and businesses in the region. We will invest in efforts to develop low carbon energy and the protection of marine habitats and livelihoods of fishermen/women most at risk.

The region also benefits from UK contributions to global programmes such as the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR) and the Climate Development and Knowledge Network which are helping countries integrate climate change adaptation and risk reduction into future policy and investment decisions.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the provision of loans or assistance to developing countries in implementing climate change reduction programmes through the World Bank. [59818]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government provide both loans and grants for climate change programmes in developing countries, including through the World Bank.

Ethiopia: Overseas Aid

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received on the use of UK development aid by the Government of Ethiopia. [59807]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State receives occasional representations, from members of the public and non-governmental organisations, about the use of development aid by the Government of Ethiopia. Issues raised have been: access to health and education services provided across Ethiopia with support from the UK and other donors; Ethiopia's plans for hydropower; commercial farming; democratisation; the role of NGOs; the humanitarian situation; and consultation on priorities for the Department for International Development's programme in Ethiopia.

JUSTICE

Bill of Rights Commission

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent progress has been made by the Commission on a British Bill of Rights. [59802]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Commission met for the first time on 6 May. It has published provisional dates for its meetings on its website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/cbr/index.htm

and has indicated that it will be publishing further details of its work programme in due course.

Bribery

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with non-governmental organisations on the 2010 Foreign Bribery strategy; and what plans he has to proceed with the strategy. [59922]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: As International Anti-Corruption Champion, I have discussed the issue of foreign bribery with a number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) including Transparency International UK and the Bond Governance Group.

The matter of whether or not to proceed with the previous Administration's Foreign Bribery Strategy in its entirety is under consideration. However, several of the objectives in the strategy have now been met, or are progressing. One of the strategy's key objectives to strengthen the law will be achieved when the Bribery Act 2010 commences on 1 July this year. The Government have also made progress in supporting ethical business and further work is ongoing to reduce foreign bribery by strengthening international anti-corruption efforts, including working closely with British embassies overseas to address reports of bribe solicitation by foreign public officials.

Business: Government Assistance

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress his Department has made in encouraging small businesses to bid for Government contracts. [60184]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: On 3 June the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) published its small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) action plan. The full action plan including details of the desired outcomes and success factors along with upcoming contracting opportunities are available on the MOJ's website at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/procurement-and-commercial/sme.htm

The MOJ'S plan is also available on the Cabinet Office's website along with other Departments' action plans at the following address:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/small-and-medium-enterprise-sme-action-plans

Progress against each action will be monitored both by the MOJ and the Cabinet Office.

Capital Appeals: Commonwealth Nations

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has resources adequate to enable it to deal with capital appeals from Commonwealth nations. [59947]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I am satisfied that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council is adequately resourced to deal with all the capital cases which come before it.

Community Care: Unpaid Work

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who will hold the community supervision order in the event of a private company winning the tender to provide unpaid work in England and Wales. [59694]

Mr Blunt: Following the award of contract, an unpaid work requirement imposed as a single requirement of a community or suspended sentence order will be the responsibility of the unpaid work provider. If the order contains any other requirement in addition to unpaid work, including a supervision requirement, the management of the order will be the responsibility of the relevant probation trust.

Community Orders

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the setting of conditions of community sentences by prison governors and probation officers under his proposals for payment by results schemes. [59899]

Mr Blunt: The Government's plans for piloting payment by results for offender rehabilitation were outlined in the Ministry of Justice Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle: Effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders". At least two of the planned pilot projects will involve offenders managed on community sentences.

The selection of requirements for community sentences is solely the responsibility of the courts. The Government currently have no plans to extend this responsibility to prison governors, probation officers or other third parties.

Providers of probation services have a statutory duty to assist the courts in determining the appropriate sentence to pass. This is met through the provision of advice in the form of a Pre-Sentence Report. This function is reserved to the public sector under the Offender Management Act 2007.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to evaluate the findings of the pilot on reducing administrative burdens associated with community orders undertaken by the Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust. [59905]

Mr Blunt: A report on the Professional Judgement Project that ran in the Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust was circulated to chief executives and chairs of probation trusts on 12 April 2011. Although too early for data on final outcomes of community sentences, the report found that 98% of those who responded to a staff survey said the new permission to exercise professional judgment had helped them to do their work better and 96% said it had enabled them to match their time and resources more appropriately to the risks and needs of the offenders they were supervising. The learning from the project informed the development of the national standards for the management of offenders (2011) issued this year. I have placed copies of the reports and annexes in the House of Commons Library.

Coroners: Reform

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has any plans to improve the complaints procedure in relation to the conduct of individual coroners following his decision not to establish the post of Chief Coroner. [60470]

Mr Djanogly: On 19 May we published for consultation a draft National Charter for the Coroner Service which included the process for complaints. As at present, complaints about a coroner's personal conduct should be made to the Office for Judicial Complaints. Complaints about the administration of the coroner service should be made in the first instance to the coroner and copied to the relevant local authority. Complaints may also be made direct to the local authority. If dissatisfied with the response, the next step would be to complain to the Local Government Ombudsman. The greater level of information in the Charter will ensure that those coming into contact with the coroner service are made aware of, and able to access, the relevant complaints procedure.

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether he has any plans to revise arrangements for the allocation of coroners inquests in relation to the death of members of the armed forces; [60575]

(2) what plans he has to monitor the standard of investigations into deaths of members of the armed services following his decision not to establish the post of Chief Coroner. [60576]

Mr Djanogly: The statement made by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke) on 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 64-66WS, set out our plans for reform of the coroner system, including the transfer of a number of functions vested in the office of the chief coroner.

This included powers under sections 12 and 13 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 which allow for the transfer of cases involving the deaths of service personnel abroad from England and Wales to Scotland where appropriate (or from Scotland to England and Wales). This function will be transferred to the Lord Chief Justice.

Monitoring arrangements for service personnel deaths will remain as at present. This involves the publication of quarterly written ministerial statements with details of the inquests of service personnel who have died in operations and exercises overseas, the latest of which can be found on the Parliament website at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110512/wmstext/110512m0001.htm

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 14 June 2011, on coroner reform, whether the functions of the Chief Coroner which are to be transferred to the Lord Chief Justice will be delegated to a single named judge; and what criteria will be used to determine the judge or judges to whom such functions will be delegated. [60580]

Mr Djanogly: It is for the Lord Chief Justice to determine whether the relevant functions should be delegated to an individual, named judge and the criteria informing any such decision.

Crime: Victims

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of victims of crime made a victim personal statement in each year from 2001 to 2010. [60041]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number or proportion of victims who made a victim personal statement to the police is not held centrally.

However, data from the Witness and Victim Experience Survey indicate that, in 2009-10, 43% of respondents remembered being offered the opportunity to make a victim personal statement and, of these, 55% said they actually did so. The survey interviewed victims and prosecution witnesses aged 18 and over, whose case resulted in a charge, between four and six months after the case had closed. Victims and witnesses in sensitive cases (such as sexual offences or domestic violence, crimes involving a fatality, or any crime where the defendant was a family member or a member of the witness's or victim's household) were not included on ethical grounds.

Since September 2007 victims who have opted into the probation service's statutory Victim Contact Scheme have been able to submit a victim personal statement to the Parole Board where the board is conducting a hearing in relation to a prisoner. The number of victim personal statements submitted to the Parole Board is not held centrally.

Legal Aid

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Legal Services Commission spent on legal aid in *(a)* each region of England and *(b)* Wales (i) in total and (ii) per head in each of the last five years. [60212]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is shown in the following tables. Table 1 also includes spend which cannot be attributed across a region, such as telephone spend. In this case the expenditure has been apportioned across the regions on a pro-rata basis.

Table 1: Legal aid spend in each region

Total spend by region (£ million)

	West Midlands	*South East*	*South West*	*Eastern*	*Wales*	*Yorkshire and Humberside*	*London*	*North West*	*North East*	*East Midlands*	*Total*
2005-06	183	204	148	117	94	174	610	295	79	122	2,028
2006-07	186	214	138	117	89	173	557	304	80	121	1,980
2007-08	192	224	140	111	91	182	585	299	82	117	2,023
2008-09	190	233	150	118	99	191	596	306	94	123	2,100
2009-10	191	239	157	123	103	211	591	309	96	126	2,147

Table 2: Legal aid spend per head

Per head average by region (£)

	West Midlands	*South East*	*South West*	*Eastern*	*Wales*	*Yorkshire and Humberside*	*London*	*North West*	*North East*	*East Midlands*	*Total*
2005-06	34	25	29	21	32	34	82	43	31	28	38
2006-07	35	26	27	21	30	34	74	44	32	28	37
2007-08	36	27	27	20	31	35	77	44	32	27	37
2008-09	35	28	29	21	33	37	78	44	37	28	39
2009-10	35	28	30	21	34	40	76	45	37	28	39

Legal Aid: Asylum

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse of *(a)* legal aid for asylum appeals and *(b)* the administrative costs associated with such appeals was in each year since 1997-98. [60579]

Mr Djanogly: It is not possible to answer the question in the format requested. Legal aid expenditure in asylum and immigration cases for 2003-04 onwards is shown in the following table. However it is not possible to disaggregate asylum from other immigration cases. The figures include representation in judicial reviews.

The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not record centrally the administrative costs associated with immigration and asylum cases.

	Total (£ million cash)
2003-04	200
2004-05	177
2005-06	103
2006-07	80
2007-08	86
2008-09	88
2009-10	90

Multi-Agency Public Protection

Mr Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the role of lay advisors to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) is; and what qualifications are required for participation by lay advisors in MAPPA meetings. [60413]

Mr Blunt: By virtue of section 326 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (the 2003 Act), the responsible authority for each MAPPA area must keep the arrangements which it has established for the assessment and management of eligible offenders under review in consultation with persons appointed by the Secretary of State as lay advisers in relation to that authority. Lay advisers are members of the public. The responsible authority will consult and seek the advice of its lay advisers in various ways, including through the lay advisers attending and contributing to meetings of the local MAPPA Strategic Management Board.

In accordance with the Secretary of State's guidance to the responsible authorities, issued under section 325 of the 2003 Act, lay advisers act as informed observers and ask challenging questions which may not have occurred to the professionals involved and thereby act as a critical friend. Under the same guidance, lay advisers are not expected routinely to attend MAPPA meetings, which are operational in nature, and even where they do so, should not be involved in decision-making about risk assessments and risk management plans for individual offenders.

Individuals do not need any formal educational qualifications in order to be appointed to the role of lay adviser, but in the recruitment process they will be assessed for a range of personal qualities including an interest in local community and social issues, and a capacity for emotional resilience.

Mr Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department issues to those appointed as lay advisors to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements boards. [60414]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not issue any central guidance to those appointed as lay advisers. However, in his guidance to the MAPPA responsible authorities issued under section 325 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, the Secretary of State provides guidance on the nature and responsibility of lay advisers.

In addition, the responsible authority in each MAPPA area is required to provide an induction programme consisting of relevant reading material, a range of visits to criminal justice premises including a prison, a police station and a probation office, and attendance at meetings. The responsible authority must also nominate a person to provide continuing support and guidance during their time as lay advisers.

Mr Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what dates the Lay Advisors to the Staffordshire and West Midlands Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) have been present at meetings of the MAPPA Board since 1 April 2010. [60415]

Mr Blunt: Staffordshire and the West Midlands are separate MAPPA areas. One or both of the lay advisers in each area have attended meetings of the respective Strategic Management Board on the following dates since 1 April 2010:

Staffordshire

2 June 2010
5 September 2010
17 November 2010
27 April 2011

West Midlands

15 July 2010
18 November 2010
20 January 2011
17 March 2011
19 May 2011.

Offender Management Services

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish the comprehensive competition programme for all offender management services proposed in his Department's Green Paper on reoffending. [59900]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is currently developing the Offender Services Competition Strategy in line with commitments in the "Breaking the Cycle" Green Paper and the Ministry of Justice Business Plan. The strategy will be published shortly.

Offenders: Training

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of offenders refused to engage in education and skills courses in each year since 1995. [59893]

Mr Blunt: Neither the Skills Funding Agency nor the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) hold information centrally relating to the numbers of offenders who refuse to engage in courses. However, data collected tells, us that, since the implementation of the Offender Learning and Skills service, the proportion of offenders in prison participating in learning and skills provision has risen from 30% to over 41%.

Offenders serving community sentences often access mainstream training and education as part of their sentence plan. No statistical data are held in respect of those who refuse to engage.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to his Department's Green Paper, Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders, page 33, paragraph 112, which business leaders his Department has identified to champion employers working with offenders on skills-based programmes to support rehabilitation. [59916]

Mr Blunt: Both the Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders" and the recently published offender learning review "Making Prison Work: Skills for Rehabilitation" place skills and employment at the heart of rehabilitation. Both reviews place significant emphasis on relationships with employers in ensuring that skills training and development for offenders match the skills demands of employers and the business community.

To ensure dialogue between Government and employers, a number of business leaders have been brought together to lead the Employer Forum for Reducing Re-Offending, acting as advisers, champions and advocates to other employers regarding supporting offenders to obtain employment. The forum is driven by a leadership team chaired by James Timpson OBE, Chief Executive of Timpson Ltd and comprises membership of 14 other companies including Marks and Spencer, DHL, Mitie Group, Greggs, Cisco Systems, Transport for London, Sodexho, Bovis Lend Lease, SERCO and Compass Group.

Within the wider forum of employers, there are many other private sector organisations currently supporting skills training in both custody and community including National Grid and its extensive supply chain of companies, Sainsbury's, Enterprise plc and Tesco. There are many other examples of successful partnerships across the National Offender Management Service, whether employers are recruiting offenders directly from prison, running a prison workshop, providing work placements or helping shape policy and practice.

Prisons: Mental Health Services

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the name is of each pilot treatment and case management project being undertaken as part of the Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder Programme; [59896]

(2) when he plans to publish the findings of the pilot treatment and case management projects being undertaken as part of the Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder Programme; [59897]

(3) when he plans to undertake the joint consultation with the Secretary of State for Health on the reconfiguration of existing services to support those with mental health issues on the secure estate. [59898]

Mr Blunt: There are 30 separate projects within the programme, representing the various phases of assessment, treatment, management and workforce development. Additionally, the programme has established a range of non-forensic projects providing specialist services to people with personality disorder in the community. The following table shows each project separately.

Service Name	*Lead organisation*	*PD Pathway*
Cambridge Complex Cases and Peterborough PD service Addenbrooks Hospital	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Partnership Trust	Non Forensic Community Support—NHS
Cumbria Itinerant Therapeutic Community	North Cumbria Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Trust	Non Forensic Community Support—NHS
Douglass House Project Bracton Centre	Oxleas Foundation Trust	Offender Community Support—NHS
Dual Diagnosis and Response Team Goodmayes Hospital, Ilford	North East London Mental Health Trust	Non Forensic Community Support—NHS
Fens Unit HMP Whitemoor	HM Prison Service	PD Treatment—High Security Prison
Gartree Prison PIPE[1] HMP Gartree	HM Prison Service	PD progression unit Prison
Hull Prison PIPE[1] HMP Hull	HM Prison Service	PD progression unit Prison
Icebreak Project	The Zone (Plymouth)	Non Forensic Community Support—NHS
Impact Project London Probation Trust	Camden and Islington MH and Social Care Trust	Offender Community Support—NHS and Probation

Service Name	*Lead organisation*	*PD Pathway*
Knowledge and Understanding Framework	Department of Health	Workforce training and development programme for those working with people with personality disorders in the health and criminal justice sectors
Leeds PD Network	Leeds Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust	Non Forensic Community Support—NHS
Leicester Approved Premise PIPE[1] Kirk Lodge	Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Trust	PD progression unit Community
London Pathway Project London Probation Trust	Oxleas Foundation Trust	Offender Community Support—NHS and Probation
Low Newton Prison PIPE[1] HMP Low Newton	HM Prison Service and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust	PD progression unit Women's Prison
Mersey Approved Premise PIPE[1] Canning House	Merseyside Probation Trust	PD progression unit Community
Millfields Unit Homerton Hospital	East London and City MH Trust	PD Treatment—Medium Secure Hospital
NE Community Team St Nicholas Hospital	Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland MH Trust	Offender Community Support—NHS
Nottinghamshire PD Network Mandala Centre	Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust	Non Forensic Community Support—NHS
Oswin Unit St Nicholas Hospital	Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland MH Trust	PD Treatment—Medium Secure Hospital
Paddock Centre Broadmoor Hospital	West London MH Trust	PD Treatment—High Secure Hospital
Peaks Unit Rampton Hospital	Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust	PD Treatment—High Secure Hospital
Primrose Unit HMP Low Newton	HM Prison Service and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust	PD Treatment—Women's Prison
Resettle—Merseyside Multi Agency	Merseyside Probation Trust	Community Support—Police, NHS and Probation
Send Prison PIPE[1] HMP Send	HM Prison Service	Progression Unit Women's Prison
SW London Service User Network	South West London and St Georges MH Trust	Non Forensic Community Support—NHS
Thames Valley Initiative Wexham Park Hospital	Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust	Non Forensic Community Support—NHS
The Haven Project	The Haven Trust	Non Forensic Community Support—NHS
The Olive Tree Coventry	Coventry Teaching PCT	Non Forensic Community Support—NHS
Waddon Ward River House, Bethlem Royal Hospital	South London and Maudsley Foundation Trust	PD Treatment—Medium Secure Hospital
Westgate Unit HMP Frankland	HM Prison Service	PD Treatment—High Security Prison

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[1] PIPES (Psychologically Informed Planned Environments) are discrete residential units, either in prisons or approved premises, which provide a particularly safe and supportive environment so that offenders can be supported following a period of more intense treatment.

There are a series of separate research activities into the various elements of the programme, covering treatment, progression and management in the community. The key research areas are:

two evaluations of the four male DSPD treatment sites in high secure hospitals and the high secure prison estate. One, undertaken by the university of Oxford focuses on the treatments offered and patients' responses to treatment. The other, by Imperial College, is concerned with staffing and organisation within the four sites. A MOJ report summarising the findings of these projects is currently progressing through quality assurance processes in preparation for publication. Copies of the full academic reports will be available on request in due course.

A qualitative evaluation of the Primrose Unit (the DSPD treatment pilot for women at HMP Low Newton) has been commissioned to evaluate whether the risk posed by offenders to others and to themselves is reduced. The evaluation is due to start imminently and will conclude in 2012, with results available in 2013.

Evaluations of elements of the six progression units (known as PIPES) have been commissioned, the results of which are due in 2013.

A randomised control trial (RCT) of the Resettle project is currently under way and will report in 2013.

The joint Ministry of Justice and Department of Health formal consultation on the Offender Personality Disorder Pathway Implementation plan, which includes increases in the number of treatment places in prisons, development of a range of community and custody based pathway services for high harm offenders and changes to the NHS based DSPD pilots services closed on 12 May. A Government response will be published shortly following joint consideration by Ministers in MOJ and DH.

Prisons: Training

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department expects to spend on prison rehabilitation as part of the Work Programme in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [59894]

Mr Blunt: The Work Programme will see providers paid by the Department for Work and Pensions for the results they achieve in getting the unemployed off welfare and into work. The DWP and the Ministry of Justice are working on plans that could lead to more offenders across the country being referred to back to work support through the programme. We are also working to see how Work Programme providers could be incentivised further to work with offenders and reducing reoffending. We will identify the costs and benefits of this approach as we develop the policy.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the potential barriers to independent providers offering work and training for offenders in prison. [60037]

Mr Blunt: In our Green Paper, "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders", we asked how we should best use the expertise and innovation of the private and voluntary sectors to help develop the working prison. We received many useful responses from the public and independent providers, and continue to engage with a range of organisations on a number of issues as we develop our policy.

Probation: ICT

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to establish an integrated IT system for probation lots and private sector operators to tender for unpaid work. [59634]

Mr Blunt: Probation trust and private sector providers of community payback (unpaid work) will be required to access and maintain data held on the national applications to be used by probation trusts for the case management and risk management of offenders in the community. This will ensure that the same risk assessment tool is used and a single view of the offender is available irrespective of the organisation delivering the service.

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which occupations are exempted under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975, as amended. [59999]

Mr Blunt: Part III of schedule 1 to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 lists those occupations that are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 ('Act'). Subsequent orders have since been made that add to and amend the list of occupations included in this schedule and can be found in the relevant years' Exceptions Order. The following is a consolidated list of current occupations in the Exceptions Order:

1. Firearms dealer

2. Any occupation in respect of which an application to the Gaming Board for Great Britain for a licence, certificate or registration is required by or under any enactment.

3. Any occupation which is concerned with:

(a) the management of a place in respect of which the approval of the Secretary of State is required by section 1 of the Abortion Act 1967; or

(b) in England and Wales, carrying on a nursing home in respect of which registration is required by section 187 of the Public Health Act 1936 or section 14 of the Mental Health Act 1959; or

(c) in Scotland, carrying on a nursing home in respect of which registration is required under section 1 of the Nursing Homes Registration (Scotland) Act 1938 or a private hospital in respect of which registration is required under section 15 of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1960.

4. Any occupation which is concerned with carrying on an establishment in respect of which registration is required by section 37 of the National Assistance Act 1948 or section 61 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

5. Any occupation in respect of which the holder, as occupier of premises on which explosives are kept, is required pursuant to regulations 4 and 7 of the Control of Explosives Regulations 1991 to obtain from the chief officer of police a valid explosives certificate certifying him to be a fit person to acquire or acquire and keep explosives

6. Approved legal services body manager.

7. A regulated immigration adviser.

The Exceptions Order also lists those professions, offices, employment, licences, certificates, permits and proceedings that are exempt from the operation of the Act.

Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of contracts issued by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies for which he is responsible were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [60198]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice does not centrally hold this information based on geographical location. It could be obtained only by a number of staff manually reviewing large volumes of records at a disproportionate cost to the Department.

Young Offenders: Probation

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on supporting the transition between youth offending and probation services when a young offender reaches 18. [59942]

Mr Blunt: Our policy is to ensure a smooth transition between youth and adult justice services at age 18 to ensure that there is continuity and consistency in access to services. As part of this the Youth Justice Board are piloting an IT portal designed to share information between Youth Offending Teams and probation, and have developed a youth to adult protocol for local areas to use as young people transition from youth to adult justice services.

SCOTLAND

Corporation Tax

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on the rates of corporation tax in Scotland. [60392]

Michael Moore: I met with the First Minister on 12 May to discuss the requests for further devolution made by the Scottish Government. The First Minister committed to send detailed proposals on each of his requests. To date, no information has been received.

TRANSPORT

Ports: Liverpool

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the evidential basis is for his Department's revised policy on ports, state aid and competition rules in relation to Liverpool City Council's planned future usage of Liverpool cruise terminal. [59321]

Mike Penning: There has been no such change in policy. Use of the City of Liverpool Cruise Terminal for 'turnaround' operations is currently precluded by a grant condition. I have indicated that the condition might be lifted if an appropriate proportion of grant were to be repaid, recognising the effect on competing terminals that have not received subsidy. This would be subject to consultation, and to state aids clearance as necessary.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on resurfacing A-roads in the last five years. [55329]

Norman Baker: For the roads which are the responsibility of the Highways Agency, the agency's annual accounts over the past five years has reported the following in terms of expenditure on maintenance.

	£ million
2009-10	1,307
2008-09	914
2007-08	878
2006-07	850
2005-06	852

Expenditure figures have been adjusted to account for spend relating to roads trunked or detrunked in the financial year.

The expenditure figures provided are for maintenance on the strategic road network managed and maintained by the Highways Agency. This includes renewal of the road surface and repairs to structures, as well as routine maintenance such as gully clearing, white lining, cleaning and winter maintenance, but not costs associated with private finance initiative contracts.

To disaggregate the cost of A-roads for the Highways Agency can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department for Transport also provides capital funding for highways maintenance to local highway authorities and it is for each individual highway authority to decide how to allocate this money, including resurfacing of A-roads for which they are responsible.

Figures detailing how much has been spent by local authorities specifically on resurfacing of A-roads are not held centrally. Information on overall expenditure for structural maintenance on A-roads by local authorities is routinely published on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at the following weblinks:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/revenueexpenditure/revenue200910/localauthoritydata/

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/capitallocaldata200910

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, *(c)* the Driving Standards Agency, *(d)* the Government Car and Despatch Agency, *(e)* the Highways Agency, *(f)* the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, *(g)* the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and *(h)* the Vehicles Certification Agency are entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56449]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport, including its seven Executive Agencies, permits elected representatives of an officially recognised trade union to have an annual allocation of paid time off from their official duties ('facility time'), in order to undertake their role as trade union officers.

The information requested has been provided in the following table.

Organisation	*Full-time trade union representatives*	*Part-time trade union representatives*	*Number of full-time and part-time trade union representatives paid more than £25,900*	*Annual cost of trade union activities to the public purse (£)*
Department for Transport central	3	17	15	168,724
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	8	37	2	270,059
Driving Standards Agency	4	47	9	218,000
Government Car and Despatch Agency	0	7	5	12,504
Highways Agency	2	93	30	261,216
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	1	37	19	87,000
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	3	31	12	[1]253,149
Vehicle Certification Agency	0	7	0	1,000

[1] VOSA figure includes overtime, travel and subsistence and fuel costs.

Note:

The table is based on trade union representatives and their annual costs as at 1 April 2011.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the long-term monetary value of the shares in *(a)* the Royal Bank of Scotland, *(b)* Lloyds Banking Group and *(c)* Northern Rock reviewed by UK General Investments Ltd. [60583]

Justine Greening: The Government's shareholdings in financial institutions are managed by UK Financial Investments (UKFI). UKFI's objective is to dispose of the investments in an orderly and active manner, within the context of an overarching objective of protecting and creating value for the taxpayer, paying due regard to financial stability and to acting in way that promotes competition.

UKFI is responsible for recommending sales to the Chancellor in line with its Framework Document and Investment mandate. The decision to proceed with a sale ultimately rests with the Chancellor.

With regard to Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Banking Group specifically, the future movements in the share prices of any publicly traded company are inherently difficult to predict.

The Chancellor announced in his Mansion House speech that he has decided to put Northern Rock plc up for sale, to banks or mutuals, based on recommendations from UKFI. This follows advice from UKFI that a sale process is likely to generate the best value for the taxpayer and should be explored as a first option.

Banks: Regulation

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reporting his Department requires from *(a)* the Royal Bank of Scotland, *(b)* Lloyds Banking Group and *(c)* Northern Rock. [60582]

Justine Greening: UK Financial Investments has been set up to manage the Government's investment in financial institutions including the Royal Bank of Scotland, Lloyds Banking Group and Northern Rock.

As part of the Royal Bank of Scotland's participation in the Asset Protection Scheme, the bank is contractually required to regularly provide information to the Asset Protection Agency, an executive agency set up to run the scheme.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what *(a)* quarterly and *(b)* annual stretch targets have been set for the Project Merlin agreement; and if he will make a statement; [60621]

(2) for what reasons stretch targets were not published alongside capacity targets in his Project Merlin statement on 9 February 2011; [60622]

(3) what role the Bank of England has in monitoring banks' performance against stretch targets under the Project Merlin agreement; [60623]

(4) what assessment he has made of Project Merlin's performance in increasing lending to small and medium-sized businesses since February 2011. [60558]

Justine Greening: The Merlin commitment agreed with the banks is £190 billion of gross new lending facilities to UK corporates, including facilities of £76 billion to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). The banks will be judged against these published and agreed numbers. Figures published in May by the Bank of England show that the five banks participating in the Merlin lending accord agreed new lending facilities of £16.8 billion to UK SMEs in the first quarter of this year. The Bank of England will continue to report the banks' new lending facilities on a quarterly basis for the duration of the Merlin agreement.

Departmental Public Bodies

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 759-60W, on departmental public appointments, for what reason the answer referred to a website that cannot be found; and how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men no longer serve on public bodies sponsored by his Department because of decisions to close, merge or reorganise such bodies taken since his appointment. [51436]

Justine Greening: The website referred to remains live and available to the general public. The answer to the second part of the question, as of 18 June 2011, is *(a)* none, and *(b)* none.

Legal Aid

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential costs to the public purse resulting from proposed reductions in civil legal aid. [60404]

Justine Greening: The impact of all policies, including the impact on the public purse, is considered carefully as part of both formal impact assessments and the Cabinet Committee clearance process.

WALES

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what regulations her Department introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation were for those affected in each case; [60323]

(2) what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by her Department between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate she has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation. [60487]

Mr David Jones: No regulations have been introduced or revoked by the Wales Office during these periods.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 her Department is responsible; and what European directives for which her Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60702]

Mr David Jones: None.

Public Expenditure

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the Welsh Local Government Association on the effects of the outcome of the 2010 Spending Review on the delivery of front-line services in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [60093]

Mr David Jones: The delivery of local government services is devolved in Wales, and, as such, is a matter for the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government received a fair settlement in both the comprehensive spending review and the Budget. The reduction in the Welsh Government's budget is smaller than the UK average and the Budget, despite being fiscally neutral, allocated an additional £65 million to the Welsh Government.

Maintaining front-line services across the UK is an important matter, though it is for the Welsh Government to decide how to allocate resources in devolved areas.

In taking forward the localism agenda, the Government are freeing local government in England from central and regional control so that they can ensure services are delivered according to local needs. I hope the Welsh Government will bring the same benefits to the citizens of Wales.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Atos

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* will be paid to Atos Healthcare for the current contract to provide medical services to his Department and *(b)* Atos Healthcare has been so paid to date. [60609]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

(a) The contract with Atos Healthcare is demand driven. Our profile of costs to date lead us to estimate a total contract value in the region of £1 billion over the lifetime of the contract (from 1 September 2005 to 31 August 2015). The scope of the services includes medical assessment, medical advice, IT support infrastructure and maintenance of facilities.

(b) The amount paid to date (for each financial year) to Atos Healthcare for medical services is set out in the following table:

Financial period	*£ million*
1 September 2005 to March 31 2006	73.3
2006-07	60.2
2007-08	70.2
2008-09	111.8
2009-10	99.1
2010-11	112.8
Total	527.4

Source:
DWP Commercial Intelligence database.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which companies tendered for the contract to provide medical services to his Department. [60610]

Chris Grayling: Companies that tendered for the medical services contract were:

Atos Origin UK (trading as Atos Healthcare);
Capita; and
Vertex (part of the United Utilities Group)

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of appeals against decisions made by Atos Healthcare were upheld in the latest period in which figures are available. [60616]

Chris Grayling: Decisions on entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) are made solely by the Department's decision makers. Atos Healthcare provide a recommendation after they have completed the work capability assessment (WCA) and this is taken into account, along with any other relevant information, when the decision maker decides on the final outcome of the claim.

For ESA claims that started between October 2008 and February 2010, that were found fit for work at the initial work capability assessment and had an appeal heard by February 2011, 39% found in favour of the appellant, meaning their entitlement to ESA was reinstated.

The Department regularly publishes official statistics on ESA and the WCA. The latest report was published in April 2011 and can be found on the internet at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc

Poverty: Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in workless households in *(a)* March 1983 and *(b)* March 1991. [60349]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many children were living in workless households in (a) March 1983 and (b) March 1991 (60349).

Labour Force Survey household datasets are available only from April-June 1997, so the requested information is not available.

Published data on children in workless households can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/work0910.pdf

Social Security Benefits

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the Vale of Glamorgan have been claiming out of work benefits for 10 years or more. [60411]

Chris Grayling: Following are the number of claimants who have been claiming out of work benefits for more than 10 years in the Vale of Glamorgan. It should be noted that incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance from October 2008.

(a) No jobseeker's allowance claimants have been receiving benefits for more than 10 years in the Vale of Glamorgan.

(b) 1,580 incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants have been receiving benefits for more than 10 years in the Vale of Glamorgan. Employment support allowance was introduced in 2008 and therefore there are no claimants on this benefit who have been claiming for more than 10 years.

(c) 140 income support/pension credit claimants have been receiving benefits for more than 10 years in the Vale of Glamorgan. This figure refers to claimants of income support (and males age 60-64 claiming pension credit) that are not also claiming incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance.

Note:

Figures are sourced from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study and have been rounded to nearest 10.

Unemployment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unemployed people per job vacancy there were in each constituency in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* the most recent month for which figures are available. [60344]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many unemployed people per job vacancy there were in each constituency in (a) June 2010 and (b) the most recent month for which figures are available. (060344)

The information requested is not available in this exact form. However, table 1 presents the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) per Jobcentre Plus vacancy for each constituency in Great Britain for June 2010 and May 2011, the latest period available. A copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 7 June 2011

JUSTICE

Prisoners: Females

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many female inmates on the prison estate have access to *(a)* games consoles and *(b)* television; and if he will make a statement. [52217]

[Official Report, 26 April 2011, Vol. 527, c. 170-71W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Crispin Blunt:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Maidstone and The Weald (Mrs Grant) on 26 April 2011. The list of prisons that provide games consoles for shared use in women's prisons omitted one establishment. The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Blunt: It is not possible to the give exact number of prisoners who have access to televisions and games consoles, as this changes constantly. There are currently 4,241 (at 8 April 2011) women in prison in England and Wales, and most of them have access to television. Her Majesty's Prisons Askham Grange, Bronzefield, Eastwood Park, Holloway, Low Newton and New Hall do not allow access to television where prisoners have been placed on the basic level of the Incentives and Earned Privileges scheme (IEPS).

Prisoners on the enhanced level of the IEPS are allowed to have certain games consoles in possession if they pay for them themselves. The National Offender Management Service does not collect centrally the numbers of prisoners who choose to do this and there would be disproportionate cost in obtaining this number. In addition, a very small number of consoles have been purchased for shared use in association by prisoners on the enhanced level of the IEPS at the following establishments: Askham Grange, Downview, Eastwood Park, New Hall and Styal. At Bronzefield, there is a games console in the Healthcare Centre.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Blunt: It is not possible to the give exact number of prisoners who have access to televisions and games consoles, as this changes constantly. There are currently 4,241 (at 8 April 2011) women in prison in England and Wales, and most of them have access to television. Her Majesty's Prisons Askham Grange, Bronzefield, Eastwood Park, Holloway, Low Newton and New Hall do not allow access to television where prisoners have been placed on the basic level of the Incentives and Earned Privileges scheme (IEPS).

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Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 8 June 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

New Social Housing

The following are the answers given by the Minister for Housing and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), relating to questions from the hon. Member for Bristol East (Kerry McCarthy) during Communities and Local Government Question Time on 4 April 2011.

22. **Kerry McCarthy** (Bristol East) (Lab): What estimate his Department has made of the likely number of new social housing starts between May 2010 and April 2015. [50362]

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): We are investing £4.5 billion in new affordable housing over the next four years, with the hope of producing 150,000 new affordable homes.

Kerry McCarthy: I thank the Minister for his reply, although I note that he referred just to affordable housing, not to affordable social housing. Given the imminent publication of the Government's child poverty strategy, what conversations has he had with colleagues in other Departments about the impact of the lack of affordable social housing on achieving our child poverty targets?

Grant Shapps: The hon. Lady is right to draw the subject to the House's attention. It is sadly true that there were 45,000 fewer affordable social homes in this country following 13 years of her party's being in power. I have had extensive conversations with colleagues across Government to ensure that, in the next 13 years—or at least in the next four—a significantly greater number of social, affordable and all types of homes will be built across the social and regular housing sectors because this country needs homes, for which the new homes bonus will provide a significant boost.

[Official Report, 4 April 2011, Vol. 526, c. 737-38.]

Letter of correction from Mr Grant Shapps:

An error has been identified in an oral answer given on 4 April 2011. The correct answer should have been:

Grant Shapps: The hon. Lady is right to draw the subject to the House's attention. It is sadly true that there were 50,000 fewer affordable homes in this country following 13 years of her party's being in power. I have had extensive conversations with colleagues across Government to ensure that, in the next 13 years—or at least in the next four—a significantly greater number of social, affordable and all types of homes will be built across the social and regular housing sectors because this country needs homes, for which the new homes bonus will provide a significant boost.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 9 June 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Home Ownership

The following is the answer given by the Minister for Housing and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), to a question from the hon. Member for Plymouth, Moor View (Alison Seabeck) during Communities and Local Government Question Time on 4 April 2011.

Alison Seabeck (Plymouth, Moor View) (Lab): I make my usual declaration of an indirect interest in the entry in the register for my right hon. Friend the Member for Greenwich and Woolwich (Mr Raynsford).

HomeBuy Direct was a good scheme, and considering that the Minister called it an "expensive flop" I am delighted that the Government have seen fit, albeit somewhat late in the day, to enhance it further and, in many ways, to replicate it. Can he confirm that, as the *Financial Times* reported, this is nothing more than his admitting that he cannot fix the mortgage market? Has he not, as my hon. Friend the Member for Chesterfield (Toby Perkins) said, just wasted a vital 10 months, leaving hundreds of thousands of first-time buyers—not tens of thousands, given the sort of scheme we are describing—with no hope under this Government of securing their own homes?

Grant Shapps: I am grateful to the hon. Lady for allowing me to clear up one thing. It is worth knowing that when I said that the HomeBuy Direct scheme had been an expensive flop, it had been launched 10 months earlier and had helped just five people to secure a home. It is true that the scheme has developed over a period of time and has helped people in between times, but as I said in my previous answer—I appreciate that it was given after she had written her question, but none the less it is useful to connect the two—the previous scheme does not end until 2012. We are in 2011, and we have already announced a new scheme.

[Official Report, 4 April 2011, Vol. 526, c. 730-31.]

Letter of correction from Mr Grant Shapps:

An error has been identified in an oral answer given on 4 April 2011. The correct answer should have been:

Grant Shapps: I am grateful to the hon. Lady for allowing me to clear up one thing. It is worth knowing that when I said that the HomeBuy Direct scheme had been an expensive flop, **there had been only five households assisted nearly eight months after the scheme was announced.** It is true that the scheme has developed over a period of time and has helped people in between times, but as I said in my previous answer—I appreciate that it was given after she had written her question, but none the less it is useful to connect the two—the previous scheme does not end until 2012. We are in 2011, and we have already announced a new scheme.

Ministerial Correction

Friday 10 June 2011

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Young People

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to give persons entering the armed forces under the age of 18 the right to leave on attaining the age of 18 if they consider at the age of 18 that they have been mistaken in their decision to enlist. [32635]

[Official Report, 10 January 2011, Vol. 521, c. 3W.]

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Brighton, Pavilion (Caroline Lucas) on 10 January 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Robathan: There are no plans to change the current policy. Service personnel under 18 years who have completed 28 days of service have the right to discharge at any time before their 18th birthday provided they give the required 14 days notice. A service person under the age of 18 years three months who registered before their 18th birthday, their clear unhappiness at their choice of career can request permission to leave the armed forces. They do not have discharge of right at this age but it is exceedingly rare for such an individual to be refused permission to leave. These safeguards help to ensure that young servicemen or women under the age of 18 years may, if they wish, leave the armed forces and that any commitment to service is both considered and voluntary.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Robathan: There are no plans to change the current policy. Service personnel under 18 years who have completed 28 days of service have the right to discharge at any time before their 18th birthday provided they give the required 14 days notice, **and are within six months of enlistment**. A Service person under the age of 18 years three months who registered before their 18th birthday their clear unhappiness at their choice of career can request permission to leave the armed forces. They do not have discharge of right at this age but it is exceedingly rare for such an individual to be refused permission to leave. These safeguards help to ensure that young servicemen or women under the age of 18 years may, if they wish, leave the armed forces and that any commitment to service is both considered and voluntary.

For the sake of clarity, I should emphasise that neither the original nor the corrected answer reflects the current policy. In a written ministerial statement of 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 24-26WS, I announced a change in the policy whereby the ability to be discharged should be a right up to the age of 18.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 16 June 2011

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Topical Questions

The following is the answer given by the Minister for South Asia, the hon. Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), to a question from the hon. Member for East Lothian (Fiona O'Donnell) during Foreign and Commonwealth Office Question Time on 14 June 2011.

Fiona O'Donnell (East Lothian) (Lab): Ahead of Channel 4's screening this evening of "Sri Lanka's Killing Fields", what recent assessment have the Secretary of State or Ministers made of the credibility of the Sri Lankan Government's lessons learned and reconciliation commission and its new deadline to report in November this year?

Alistair Burt: I spoke this morning to the Foreign Secretary of Sri Lanka, who had the opportunity to update me on some positive measures that were being taken in relation to Jaffna. I was in a position to remind him of the importance of having a credible and independent investigation of the various allegations that are now very much on the table from the United Nations and others. It is essential that those are dealt with. We note the new timetable for the LLRC to report in November, but, however long this takes, it will not be possible for Sri Lanka to move forward unless it has addressed some of the horrors of the past.

[Official Report, 14 June 2011, Vol. 529, c. 633-34.]

Letter of correction from Alistair Burt:

An error has been identified in an oral answer given on 14 June 2011. The correct answer should have been:

Alistair Burt: I spoke this morning to the Foreign **Minister** of Sri Lanka, who had the opportunity to update me on some positive measures that were being taken in relation to Jaffna. I was in a position to remind him of the importance of having a credible and independent investigation of the various allegations that are now very much on the table from the United Nations and others. It is essential that those are dealt with. We note the new timetable for the LLRC to report in November, but, however long this takes, it will not be possible for Sri Lanka to move forward unless it has addressed some of the horrors of the past.

Ministerial Correction

Friday 17 June 2011

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Livestock: Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much money her Department allocated to each local authority for animal health and welfare work in each of the last three financial years. [52100]

[Official Report, 27 April 2011, Vol. 527, c. 409-12W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Jim Paice:

Four errors have been identified in the table accompanying the written answer given to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) on 27 April 2011. The incorrect figures, all relating to the 2010-11 financial year, were Barnsley £23,266, Bradford £38,080, Kirklees £29,640 and South Tyneside £3,020.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Paice: DEFRA funding allocated to each local authority for animal health and welfare work in each of the last three financial years is shown in the following table:

	Allocation per financial year (£)		
Local authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Barnsley	24,474	28,274	**23,274**
Bath and North East Somerset	60,015	60,015	60,015
Bedford	—	19,338	19,338
Bedfordshire	48,345	—	—
Birmingham	27,815	28,515	27,315
Blackburn with Darwen	6,052	5,465	4,074
Blackpool	385	385	385
Blaenau Gwent	16,841	16,841	16,841
Bolton	12,208	12,208	12,208
Bradford	39,080	41,080	**39,080**
Bridgend	35,462	35,462	35,462
Buckinghamshire	88,924	88,924	88,924
Bury	2,901	2,901	2,901
Caerphilly	22,521	20,414	20,414
Calderdale	54,699	54,699	54,699
Cambridgeshire	72,975	72,975	72,975
Cardiff	5,103	7,103	7,103
Carmarthenshire	192,297	178,296	192,296
Central Bedfordshire	—	29,007	29,007
Ceredigion	195,113	179,113	195,113
Cheshire (East)	—	56,000	49,930
Cheshire (West and Chester)	—	48,500	48,500
Cheshire	93,080	—	—
City of London (Chelmsford)	10,180	10,180	10,180
City of London (Reigate)	12,673	12,673	12,673
City of London (Reading)	—	—	1,685
City of London (Wokingham and Reading)	10,852	10,852	—
City of York	10,850	10,850	10,850
Conwy	146,284	146,000	146,000
Cornwall	140,389	160,389	140,389
Coventry	4,000	5,000	6,000
Cumbria	290,826	256,342	264,539
Darlington	36,649	36,649	36,647
Denbighshire	136,372	136,372	136,272
Derby City	6,692	5,792	5,792
Derbyshire	199,112	196,543	181,539
Devon	501,678	505,733	500,733
Doncaster	51,456	46,456	46,456
Dorset	109,780	101,885	114,960
Dudley	17,870	17,870	17,870
Durham	81,567	87,567	82,567
East Riding of Yorkshire	209,483	214,483	209,483
East Sussex	53,611	53,611	53,611
Essex	150,996	130,996	150,996
Flintshire	73,930	73,930	73,930
Gateshead	2,018	2,018	2,018
Gloucestershire	196,970	201,190	192,720
Gwynedd	130,937	130,937	130,937
Halton	—	—	1,033
Hampshire	38,108	38,108	38,108
Hartlepool	7,050	4,550	4,550
Havering	2,000	14,000	14,000
Herefordshire	119,768	119,768	114,768
Hertfordshire	26,285	26,285	26,285
Isle of Anglesey	96,018	96,018	82,018
Isle of Wight	34,449	28,949	32,449
Isles of Scilly	—	22,000	22,000
Kent	208,188	206,677	203,170
Kirklees	31,357	33,657	**29,657**
Lancashire	339,945	339,945	339,945
Leeds	29,049	29,049	29,049
Leicestershire	62,736	62,736	62,671
Lincolnshire	173,691	173,691	173,691
Med way	8,240	8,240	8,240
Merthyr Tydfil	71,856	66,856	66,856
Middles	936	936	936
Milton Keynes	37,725	18,037	25,089
Monmouthshire including Torfaen	128,705	135,943	155,228
Newcastle	34,920	34,800	33,970
Newport	70,412	38,937	37,873
Norfolk	129,284	129,284	129,284
North Lincolnshire	23,520	23,520	23,520
North Somerset	30,158	30,158	30,158
North Tyneside	12,431	12,431	12,431
North Yorkshire	374,691	404,691	414,691
Northamptonshire	84,872	79,644	79,644
Northumberland	178,377	178,377	178,377
Nottinghamshire	89,433	89,433	89,433
Oldham	52,694	45,428	45,428
Oxfordshire	113,198	112,929	111,629
Pembrokeshire	133,560	133,560	133,560
Peter	9,668	9,668	9,668
Powys	259,260	262,260	253,260
Redcar and Cleveland	4,046	4,046	3,727

Local authority	*Allocation per financial year (£)*		
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Rhondda Cynon Taf	50,659	50,659	50,659
Rochdale	2,885	3,335	3,335
Rotherham	33,188	33,188	33,188
Rutland	10,839	10,839	10,839
St Helens	2,788	—	—
Salford	—	1,494	1,313
Sandwell	6,357	6,357	6,357
Sefton	4,994	4,994	4,994
Sheffield	38,059	42,700	36,169
Shropshire	127,332	131,782	127,320
Slough	—	—	6,000
Solihull	18,113	18,113	18,113
Somerset	234,469	232,469	224,469
South Gloucester	69,309	66,309	66,309
South Tyneside	740	1,200	330
Staffordshire	270,467	293,767	268,767
Stockport	—	3,658	5,593
Stockton	13,727	13,727	13,727
Stoke on Trent	8,570	8,570	8,570
Suffolk	120,884	120,884	120,884
Surrey	134,777	132,841	132,841
Swindon	5,242	5,242	5,242
Tameside	630	630	630
Telford and Wrekin	30,618	30,618	30,618
Trafford	—	3,711	3,711
Vale of Glamorgan	23,350	23,350	23,350
Wakefield	32,452	37,764	32,452
Walsall	4,401	4,401	4,401
Warrington	9,491	9,491	9,491
Warwickshire	127,828	132,000	131,000
West Berkshire and Wokingham	—	—	27,061
West Berkshire	27,061	27,061	—
West Glamorgan	65,356	65,356	64,416
West Sussex	46,743	44,743	44,743
Wigan	8,000	6,087	6,087
Wiltshire	60,912	60,912	60,912
Windsor and Maidenhead	38,117	34,542	34,542
Wirral	473	2,008	2,008
Wokingham	—	—	9,167
Wolverhampton	3,934	3,934	3,873
Worcestershire	215,909	202,709	180,630
Wrexham	57,208	57,208	57,208

Source:
Core DEFRA